



Jordan Times

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Syria said studying partial pullout

PARIS (R) — Syria may be prepared to make a partial withdrawal from Lebanon if the situation calms down in the south near the Israeli border, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said on Wednesday. "I have the impression that if things calm down in southern Lebanon, the Syrian authorities will envisage a partial withdrawal from the north," he told the Diplomatic Press Association after talks last week with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara. "But everything will depend on the overall situation, which ... will depend on the elections. I'm not talking in this context about elections in Lebanon but about the elections in Israel," Mr. Dumas said. "So we will have to wait until the end of the year or at least until the post-election period to see if this plan, if it is to come about normally, will take place or not." Mr. Dumas said France wanted to see free and internationally supervised elections in Lebanon as soon as possible. "It is important that Lebanon be allowed to express itself freely one way or the other," he said.

Boy opens fire, hurts 3 in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 17-year-old youth described as mentally unstable opened fire with a Kalashnikov gun near the Second Circle in Jabel Amman Wednesday and caused slight injuries to three people, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The boy, identified as Khalid Husein Ahmad Talah, a sixth-grade student, was first spotted with the gun by passers-by, who tried to take the weapon from him, Petra said. The boy threatened to kill himself if anyone approached him, but opened fire when approached by people, according to the agency. Three people, including a police guard at the Egyptian embassy, were slightly wounded. It said adding that the boy was suffering from "mental problems." No further details were immediately available.

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Palestinians to discuss peace talks in Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian delegates to Arab-Israeli peace talks will meet in Amman this week to discuss the peace process ahead of Israel's June 23 elections, Palestinian sources said Wednesday. The sources said they could not confirm Jordanian newspaper reports which said Yasser Arafat would chair the meeting of Palestinian leaders including chief negotiator Haidar Abdel Shafi and other delegates due to cross over from the Israeli-occupied territories on Thursday. The Palestinians will also assess the situation in the occupied territories, and discuss ways of ending a state of Palestinian strife in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the sources said.

Palestinians strike for Bosnia Muslims

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians went on strike in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Wednesday, obeying a call by Islamic fundamentalists to stay at home in support of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Hamas movement issued leaflets calling for the one-day stoppage. A leading Saudi cleric issued a decree on Tuesday urging support for Muslims against "God's enemies" in the former Yugoslav republic. Serbs have seized about two-thirds of the territory in an ethnic war (see page 8).

Egypt reports extremists' arrest

CAIRO (AP) — Security officers on Wednesday seized explosives with suspected Muslim extremists at a site in northern and southern Egypt, police sources said. They said two suspects were arrested. Police were searching for another six. In the Mediterranean port of Damietta, the sources said, a security officer stopped two 16-year-olds on the street and searched them. He reportedly found one of the boys three homemade explosive devices — jars containing gunpowder, stones and glass shards. Sources said the suspects admitted they and five others, whom they named, were roaming the streets to remove "un-Islamic" movie ads from billboards. The officer arrested the two and a search was mounted for the others.

India complains of undue U.S. pressure

NEW DELHI (AP) — India said Wednesday it will press ahead with research programs despite new U.S. restrictions on exporting missile technology that it described as "unreasonable pressure." The U.S. Commerce Department this week tightened licensing controls on exports that could be used for missiles if they are bound to India, Pakistan, China, Brazil, South Africa, North Korea or the Middle East. The regulations were published as a senior State Department team was on its way to New Delhi to discuss arms control in South Asia and other bilateral issues. Foreign Ministry spokesman Arah Seth said India would continue its research "in areas which we deem are of importance to us." He added: "We cannot be subjected to unreasonable pressure of the kind exemplified in the most recent U.S. decision."

Israel wants to convert 30,000 Ethiopians

TEL AVIV (AP) — A government committee has recommended that Israel set up a village in Ethiopia to bring tens of thousands of converts to Judaism, Israel Television reported Tuesday. Israel TV said the committee of representatives from the Israeli interior ministry and chief rabbinate estimated the process, including religious and historical instruction, would take years. The committee was set up because many of the converts have immediate family in Israel. Israel has brought an estimated 40,000 Ethiopian Jews under its "law of return" since the early 1980s. The law guarantees immediate Israeli citizenship to Jews unless they have voluntarily converted to another religion. Israel TV said the committee estimated that the converts, called the Falash Mora, number 30,000.

No freeze in U.S. aid to Jordan, but pressure is on over Iraq sanctions

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An American spokesman Wednesday dismissed as untrue reports that the Bush administration had suspended the disbursement of financial assistance to Jordan. "Our policy remains unchanged as it was a month ago and there is no suspension of American financial aid to Jordan," said the spokesman, from the U.S. embassy in Amman. The spokesman was answering a question on unconfirmed reports over the weekend which said President George Bush had issued an executive order freezing all aid to Jordan as a sign of Washington's displeasure with the continued large-scale smuggling of goods across the border to Iraq. Although American financial assistance to Jordan — which took a downward slide since 1980 — has not been a crucial factor in the Kingdom's economy, it was always seen as highly symbolic of the ups and downs in the political links between Washington and Amman. American aid to Jordan for calendar year 1991 was \$31 million, and \$65 million has been

budgeted for 1992. In addition, Washington has given \$20 million in soft-term loans to finance a Jordanian purchase of American wheat and another \$12 million in feedgrains to the Kingdom. Amman and Washington recently signed an agreement rescheduling \$127 million of Jordanian debts owed to the U.S. The embassy spokesman declined comment on earlier reports that the U.S. had "cancelled" joint military exercises with Jordan saying that there was no official statement from Washington on the issue. But another American source confirmed that the exercises were "postponed rather than cancelled." The source did not offer any explanation to the American move, but reports in the American press quoting informed official sources said it was definitely aimed at expressing the Bush administration's anger over what it sees as laxity on the part of Jordan in enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq. Public statements by administration officials acknowledge that Jordanian officials are doing their best to check smuggling into Iraq, but what is implied or suggested in these statements is that the Kingdom could and should do

more to tighten its borders. A series of reports appeared in the U.S. media in the past four weeks, some citing unidentified officials and others quoting what were described as official intelligence reports, all implying that perceived Jordanian laxity in adhering to the sanctions was instrumental in the continued survival of the government of President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. The reports were coupled with what was described as a revival of a rather old proposal to station United Nations inspectors in Jordanian territory to monitor cargo traffic into and from the Kingdom in return for the withdrawal of the American-led naval fleet now stationed in the Red Sea to enforce the sanctions against Iraq. The strict enforcement of the sanctions by the warships has resulted in heavy losses and delays for Jordanian importers. On many occasions, Jordan-bound cargo was intercepted and denied entry to Aqaba, to the extent that many importer and shipping agents complain that Jordan was continuing to be punished for not joining the anti-Iraq coalition.

(Continued on page 5)

Official reaffirms rejection of U.N. inspectors

AMMAN (AP) — Jordanian officials Wednesday objected to a U.S. proposal to deploy U.N. inspectors on Jordanian territory to tighten international sanctions against Iraq. A senior government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the proposal was considered "an infringement of the Kingdom's sovereignty." "We are abiding by the United Nations sanctions against Iraq and the government is strictly enforcing the embargo," the official said. On Tuesday, a Pentagon spokesman said the United States had suggested ending the U.S.-led interception operation off Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba if U.N. inspectors were deployed at Aqaba and other locations in Jordan to enforce the international embargo against Iraq. The spokesman, Pete Williams, said the questions of allowing the U.N. observers access to Jordan "is a Jordanian decision that has to be worked out with the United Nations." He said that plan would "ease

(Continued on page 5)



ALL BETS COVERED: Taking no chances the residents of a house in occupied Jerusalem displays the placards and election posters of almost all parties running in the June 23 elections. The placards include a warning by a group not to vote in the "impure elections" and another to prepare for the Messiah.

Red Cross questions Israeli denial of shoot-to-kill order

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is questioning Israeli denials of a shoot-to-kill policy for Palestinian suspects, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz said on Wednesday. It said the Red Cross had appealed to Israeli authorities to scrap army undercover units which, according to a secret ICRC report, had killed 31 Palestinians between September and April. The army insists soldiers adhere to strict regulations on opening fire and denies having a shoot-to-kill policy. Haaretz said the Red Cross report raised doubts. "The number of persons who have been killed without being involved in a confrontation (with army forces) puts into question the official statement that no shoot-to-kill policy has been implemented in the occupied territories," the report said. The Red Cross reported allegations of Palestinian being shot dead after being caught by undercover units. It also said some Palestinian detainees were given electric shocks in captivity.

"These allegations of summary executions, whether substantiated or not, demonstrate the need to put an immediate end to operations conducted by undercover units," the report said. "These operations are accompanied by an increasing number of casualties and as the behaviour of the undercover units in the occupied territories fuels rumours, suspicion, distrust and fear among large sectors of the civilian population," it added. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens, resisting increasing international criticism, has insisted undercover units are effectively fighting armed activists of the four-and-a-half-year-old Palestinian uprising. Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups have accused undercover soldiers, often posing as Arabs, of unjustifiably killing wanted Palestinians. A spokeswoman at the ICRC's Geneva headquarters declined to comment on the substance of the Haaretz article, saying only that reports the ICRC makes to governments are confidential. "We obviously have regular reports between ourselves and the authorities. Those reports are

confidential," said Karen Sadler. In Nablus, Palestinians said on Wednesday Israeli troops shot dead an Arab boy who stepped out of his house to see why his dog was barking. The Israeli army said a patrol unit commander shot dead Samir Yusuf Naim, 16 when he allegedly drew a knife and tried to stab a soldier in the nearby village of Zawayeh on Tuesday night. Rayyan Abu Beih, 55, a neighbour who watched the incident from his window, said soldiers shot Naim without warning when he emerged from his door to check on his dog. He told journalists in Nablus that Naim did not carry a knife, did not try to attack anyone, and was not on a wanted list. Other Palestinians gave similar accounts of the shooting. They quoted Naim's relatives as saying he was shot in the head and chest when he went outside because of his barking dog. Abu Beih said he saw soldiers shot near his house, turn off their jeep lights wait.

(Continued on page 5)

Ordeal ends for German hostages

BEIRUT (Agencies) — German aid workers Heinrich Strubbig and Thomas Kempfner — the last Western hostages in Lebanon — emerged on Wednesday's from their 37-month ordeal in the hands of kidnappers. The 10-year hostage saga, in which about 80 foreigners were abducted and 10 died at their captors' hands, ended with yet another round of confusion and false starts. But after a day of delay Mr. Strubbig, 51, and Mr. Kempfner, 31, were brought to Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh's Beirut office by Brigadier Restom Ghazzali, head of Syrian army intelligence in Beirut, and turned over to German government envoy Bernd Schmidbauer.

Although the captives had been reported as early as Monday to have passed to intermediaries, U.N. negotiator Gandomenich Picco told reporters: "They were in the kidnappers' hands until this morning." Mr. Strubbig and Mr. Kempfner were abducted in May 1989 by followers of Abdul Hadi Hamadi, security chief of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah, who wanted to force Germany to free his two brothers Abbas and Muhammad Ali Hamadi.

The personal nature of the Hamadis' demands left the two Germans stranded for six months after kidnapping freed their last American and British captives at the end of 1991. Muhammad Ali Hamadi is serving a life sentence for hijacking a TWA plane and killing a U.S. passenger in 1985. Abbas Hamadi was sentenced to 13 years for kidnapping two German businessmen in 1987.

Bonn refuses to free them until they complete their jail terms. But it has said it will not seek to prosecute the kidnappers and would probably make it easier for the Hamadi family to visit the two prisoners in German jails.

The former captives and their families took off for Cologne, Germany, from Greece's Souda Bay air base at 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) after undergoing medical tests and resting for a while. They had left Beirut at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT) aboard a German government Falcon-50 executive jet.

Husseini suggests continual talks; Sha'ath hopes for resumption in July

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said Wednesday that Arab-Israeli peace talks should be held continually, instead of in short spurts, until the two sides reach agreement. In London, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said he hoped the peace talks would resume at the end of July and urged the United States to set a timetable towards transitional Palestinian rule by November. "We are ready to resume bilateral negotiations as soon as the impasse over the Israeli elections is over," Nabil Sha'ath, a coordinator for the Palestinian negotiating team, said. "We expect some time from the end of July we will start negotiating again," Dr. Sha'ath told a news conference, adding that the Palestinian delegation would negotiate with whatever Israeli government came to power after next Tuesday's election. But he added: "The world community and the United States in particular... (ought) to establish a clear schedule of how these

negotiations are going to proceed between July and Nov. 1." Dr. Sha'ath said the letter of invitation to the talks last year specified "that one year after Madrid (where the talks opened last October) the Palestine interim self-government authority will be established and the transitional period will start." "That gives us only three months of active negotiations," said Dr. Sha'ath, a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "We expect Nov. 1 to be a deadline and not only a target." Mr. Husseini told a news conference in occupied territories that he hoped Israel could quickly form a cabinet after next week's elections so peace talks can resume. But he said the Palestinians would be willing to renew the talks without a government in place. Mr. Husseini also addressed the increase in killings of suspected collaborators by fellow Palestinians. He blamed the Israeli occupation for part of the problem. "The Israelis and Arabs should work to better organise the peace

talks, said Mr. Husseini, chief advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team. "Instead of once a month, maybe we can meet more times. Maybe we meet for rounds which can go on for more than one week, maybe two, three, four weeks, continually," he said. "If there will be a seriousness on the Israeli side, we are ready to go on... and concentrate in the same place for a very long period until we can reach completion," Mr. Husseini said. Until now, the negotiations that began in Madrid last October and then moved to Washington have usually broken up after a week. They have been stalled by arguments over procedures. Mr. Husseini was pressed by reporters to say whether he wanted a new Israeli government headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud Party or by opposition Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin. He refused to say, but admitted he believed a Labour-led government

(Continued on page 5)

Yeltsin lobbies for aid; summit successful on arms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Boris Yeltsin lobbied Congress on Wednesday for a \$24 billion Western aid package, declaring that Russia would not get a second chance to build democracy. President George Bush said lawmakers should approve the aid even in a "tough political time." Mr. Yeltsin, departing from his prepared text, also vowed to spare no effort in determining the fate of any American war prisoners in the former Soviet Union. "As president of Russia I assure you that even if one American has been detained in my country and can still be found, I will find him. I will get him back to his family," he said. Mr. Yeltsin's speech — the first by a Russian or Soviet president to a joint session of Congress — came on the second day of a post-cold war summit. It already had produced a sweeping arms-reduction accord and the startling revelation about U.S. war prisoners. A signing ceremony was scheduled for later in the day. Even before the new arms

accord was signed, Mr. Yeltsin announced that he had ordered the deactivation of "SS-12 missiles targeted on the United States." These are heavy land-based missiles with multiple warheads — the biggest in the arsenal of the former Soviet Union. Mr. Bush, who joined Mr. Yeltsin earlier in speaking to a group of business executives from both countries, said he would extend most-favoured trading status to Russia later in the day. He urged the U.S. business leaders to invest heavily in the fledgling Russian democracy. Chants of "Boris" echoed in the House chamber as the Russian leader entered. Mr. Yeltsin was interrupted several times by standing ovations. But the most thunderous came when he vowed to find the prisoners. He followed the applause with a pointed plea that Congress not penalise him by denying Western aid until the fate of the missing Americans is resolved — as some key lawmakers have proposed. Nothing that it was he who made

the disclosure, Mr. Yeltsin said: "I don't really quite understand you ladies and gentlemen." "There will be no more lies — ever," he told them. And, with a bluster that has become his trademark, Mr. Yeltsin asserted that his new government would never be deposed. "They will not topple Yeltsin. I am in good health... and I will not cry uncle," he said. He declared communism dead. "We shall not let it rise again in our land," he said, and got a standing ovation. "History must not be allowed to repeat itself," he said. "That is why economic and political reforms are the primary task for Russia today. We are facing challenges no one has ever faced before," he said. He gave a warning, too. "We have no right to fail in this most difficult endeavor for there will be no second try," Mr. Yeltsin said. "Our predecessors have used them up." Earlier, Mr. Yeltsin told U.S. business leaders that they should not miss the opportunity to invest in his country.

Hawatmeh pays tribute to Jordan

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh Wednesday landed Jordanian-Palestinian relations, describing them as brotherly and historical. He stressed the sanctity of these relations, saying that both peoples have always shared the same destiny. Mr. Hawatmeh, 56, thanked Jordan for the good care it gave to Palestine President Yasser Arafat, who underwent a brain surgery at Al Hussein Medical Centre early this month. He said that the good care and special attention Mr. Arafat received in Jordan demonstrates the strong relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. In a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i, Mr. Hawatmeh said national unity amongst the ranks of the leaders of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories is a basic pillar for the DFLP's work. He called for intensifying all efforts to contain political divisions inside the occupied territories. Mr. Hawatmeh underlined the need for achieving Palestinian national unity on democratic

(Continued on page 5)

Officials play down Islamists' protest

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Officials Wednesday dismissed as unwarranted and exaggerated Muslim Brotherhood condemnations of police banning worshippers from conducting 'Eid Al Adha prayers in open fields. They said that the police had acted on an old standing order which was not put into effect by earlier governments and that the significance of what happened on the first day of the feast should not be overblown. One senior official said that there was nothing new in the decision (to ban prayer in open spaces) and it should not be viewed as a crackdown on the Islamists by this government. "This was a departmental decision in the Awqaf ministry," said the official who requested anonymity. "It should not be seen in a very different light." The office of the Muslim Brotherhood members of the Lower House of Parliament (23 deputies) Tuesday denounced as an unjustified violation of the Prophet Mohammad's teachings the police action taken in the early morning of the first day of the 'Eid when worshippers were prevented from performing prayers in open areas throughout the country. According to informed sources the Muslim Brotherhood deputies were aware of the standing order and had approached the government for a waiver before

last week's incident but did not receive a clear answer from the ministry concerned. The sources said that since the minister of Awqaf was out of the country at the time, the acting minister was approached by the Islamist deputies but that he had not given them a clear indication that prayers could not be conducted in the open air. The statement issued by the "Islamic Movement Parliamentary Office" and distributed to the press Tuesday said: "Worshippers were shocked and dismayed on the morning of Eid Al Adha last Thursday to see unusually large numbers of police officers preventing them from praying in open fields in violation of the Prophet's teachings." The sources, who spoke to the Jordan Times Wednesday, said that the standing order was never strictly implemented but was originally taken for "security reasons." Although no major clashes were reported last Thursday eyewitnesses said that several inmates came to the designated open areas prepared to counter the police action with fiery speeches criticising the government and "un-Islamic practices in the country in general." Unconfirmed reports said that one Muslim Brotherhood deputy arrived at the regular site for prayers in east Amman carrying a coffin to press the point that he

(Continued on page 5)

Libyan information to aid Britain's anti-IRA fight

LONDON (R) — Information supplied by Libya on its aid to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) could significantly boost Britain's fight against violence in Northern Ireland but is unlikely to deal a mortal blow to the guerrilla group, experts say.

"It would be extremely useful for the security authorities to know the precise amount of weaponry in each category and explosives brought in ... and the people who negotiated and dealt with the transaction from the IRA," said Professor Paul Wilkinson of St. Andrews University.

Another expert, Professor William Gutteridge of the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism, added: "The information is really significant if it enables the authorities to identify stocks of weapons or ... IRA operators."

Libya last week provided information on its past dealings with the IRA, including names and details of arms shipments.

The Foreign Office, giving an initial assessment on Monday, said there were "positive elements" that might prove useful in battling against the IRA.

Britain had long demanded that Libya detail its links to the IRA, which is seeking to end British rule in Northern Ireland, as a condition for improving relations severed in 1984 after a British policewoman was killed outside the Libyan embassy.

Relations soured further after the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the call for information on the IRA was included in a series of U.N.-backed demands over Lockerbie and an attack on a French plane over Niger in 1989.

The Libyan connection was blown apart in 1987 when French customs seized a freighter, the Eksmud, loaded with Libyan arms.

Bahrain rebuts Qatari case at World Court

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain has submitted a rebuttal of Gulf neighbour Qatar's request to the World Court to rule on their festering dispute over a clutch of barren but potentially oil-rich islands and reefs, a senior official said on Wednesday.

The International Court of Justice in the Hague would probably take several weeks to study Bahrain's written arguments, which follow a submission from Qatar last February, the Bahrain official said.

Public hearings may follow if both sides agree, he added. It may take months for the Hague to decide whether it even has jurisdiction in the case, which Qatar took to the court on its own last July. Qatar said last week it would abide by any ruling the Hague might make.

Manama maintains that the two sides must go together to the Hague to solve the dispute over the islands, shoals and sandbanks controlled by Bahrain.

But a joint application has proved difficult so far because the two countries — which were allies during the Gulf war and are both members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — cannot even agree on the terms of the dispute.

Bahrain wants the court to look at the wider issues of sea and land boundaries while Qatar wants it to focus on a few islands which are at the heart of the row.

Bahrain has maintained control of territorial waters claimed by Qatar last April. The United States, Bahrain, France and Iran have all urged both sides to settle the dispute peacefully.



Israeli Prime Minister and Likud chief Yitzhak Shamir (right) and rival Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin shake hands as moderator Nissim

Shamir, Rabin, in debate, leave room for joining forces

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin have laid out differing strategies for Mideast peace in a televised election debate, but left open the possibility of having to rule jointly if next week's election ends in stalemate.

Election law forbids the state-owned media to air candidates' faces and voices, so the half-hour debate gave TV viewers their only chance to watch the leaders of the Likud and Labour parties being grilled on the issues by a neutral moderator.

While some opinion polls give Labour a lead, others point to neither side getting sufficient votes in the June 23 ballot to form a coalition.

Likud and Labour ruled jointly from 1948 to 1990 because of stalemate elections, and another "national unity" government would come as no surprise.

"I have never said I rule out such a government completely. We have to look at the various circumstances and implications," said Mr. Shamir.

But at the moment it is simply not realistic," he said, adding that past experience had taught him to distrust Labour.

Mr. Rabin did not answer directly whether he preferred a narrow coalition or a broad "national unity" government. Instead he listed the parties of the extreme left and right which he considered unacceptable, and did not mention Likud.

The debate was recorded Tuesday morning for transmission at peak evening viewing time, and the candidates did not see moderator Nissim Mishaal's questions in advance.

Mr. Shamir, 76, and his 70-year-old challenger did not break any new ground in their answers, and the only surprise was a power cut that blanked out the final sentence of Mr. Rabin's closing statement. There was no suggestion of foul play, and the parties agreed to let the recording stand.

Aides to both candidates claimed victory in the debate. Israeli political commentators were unsure who won.

Mr. Mishaal devoted most of his questions to the peace process, and Mr. Shamir and Mr. Rabin both appeared to strive for the middle ground.

In contrast to the content of his speeches at election rallies, Mr. Shamir refrained from boasting of the settlements Likud has built in the occupied territories.

He said Israel was too small to give up any of the territory it holds, but he seemed to leave the longer-term options open.

If the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip accepted autonomy as an interim solution, "we'll see how it works and afterward we'll talk about a permanent solution. Maybe then the situation will change," he said.

Mr. Rabin, anxious not to seem unduly dovish, steered clear of offering outright to yield Arab land. Like Mr. Shamir, he favoured autonomy and opposed statehood for the Palestinians, and he backed Jewish settlements in parts of the occupied territories.

The differences, in the generally courteous debate, emerged over strategy.

Mr. Rabin maintained that Mr. Shamir did not sincerely believe in autonomy and did not pursue the option vigorously in U.S.-brokered peace talks that began last fall.

What was needed, said Mr. Rabin, was "not meetings every four or five weeks, but a sustained move to reach a solution."

He accused Mr. Shamir of not wanting to let Jewish American attend auction

conducting by Marboon Nasser Auctioneers to sell U.S. trucks, scrap metals, tents and heavy equipment.

On June 2, Lowy Enterprises sent an application to the Saudi auctioneer asking to take part in the auction.

In the application, a copy of which was provided by the Jewish group to Mr. Cheney, she named the employee as John Schwartz, listing his date of birth and other details. In a box marked religion, she put down Jewish.

In a June 3 response, also provided to Mr. Cheney, the Saudi firm welcomed the U.S. bid but rejected Mr. Schwartz's participation.

"Since it is difficult to get a visa for a person who is Jewish, we suggest you send the particulars of someone else who is other than Jewish," the firm said.

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Iraq could still make a nuclear bomb — IAEA

ROME (R) — The West must clamp a tighter embargo on Iraq and launch new inspections to prevent it making a nuclear bomb, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Tuesday.

"For the time being our inspectors have cut the head off efforts to turn Iraq into a nuclear threat," Maurizio Zifferero, the agency's deputy director-general, told Reuters in an interview.

But he cautioned: "The same person is still in charge. Iraq still has a huge supply of funds because of its oil wealth. And its huge team of scientists is still in place."

"They've got the know-how and the people, so it's only a matter of time before they could try and make a bomb."

Mr. Zifferero is in Rome for a conference on nuclear weapons. U.N. inspectors left Iraq earlier this month after disabling part of its nuclear capability. Mr. Zifferero said his agency expected the destruction of suspicious plants to be completed by August.

The U.S. Defence Department expressed fears last week that military technology was reaching Iraq despite a U.N. embargo aimed at pressing Baghdad to destroy its ability to build weapons of mass destruction after the Gulf war.

"The Iraqi attitude has always been of resistance to the West's dictates. But it's been more formal than substantial. We must be very watchful in future," said Mr. Zifferero.

"The West must continue on-site inspections even after August, it must clamp stronger controls on exports to Iraq and it must gather information through secret services," he said.

Both the United States and Britain have vowed to keep sanctions against Iraq so long as President Saddam Hussein remains in power.

Iraq has refused to hand over data on firms and people who helped with its nuclear programme, saying it was restricted by moral and other obligations towards its contracting suppliers.

The U.N. worries Iraq could be wanting to keep the supplies lines open for the future.

The New York Times on Tuesday quoted a U.S. intelligence report as saying Saddam Hussein was stronger now than a year ago despite economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation (see page 2).

Iranian opposition says Tehran planning to strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — The main Iranian opposition group said Wednesday Tehran had placed its armed forces on alert and was planning to launch an air strike on Iranian rebel bases in Iraq.

A Mujahadeen statement telefaxed to the Jordan Times said Iran had placed its "entire army, (Revolutionary) Guards Corps and air bases along the western borders on a state of alert."

The statement said the Mujahadeen feared Iranian planes might attack their bases in Iraq in retaliation for recent riots in Iranian cities which some Tehran leaders blamed partly on the Mujahadeen.

Iranian jets bombed a base of the Mujahadeen's National Liberation Army (NLA) northeast of Baghdad in April, killing one man.

Mujahadeen gunners shot down an Iranian fighter-bomber in the raid. Two airmen were captured.

Last week Tehran announced the execution of four men in Mashhad and four in Shiraz for rioting. The Mujahadeen said at least six of their supporters were known to have been killed in captivity during the war.

Frequently, rival factions carried out wholesale tit-for-tat kidnappings.

Fighting in the Chof mountains above Beirut in 1983, Falangists bundled dozens of Shiite captives, men and women, into a metal shipping container and left them to suffocate to death.

Both sides often killed captives. Bodies and skeletons are still found in mass graves or stuffed down old wells.

Thousands of other Lebanese kidnapped by one side or the other were freed in exchange for other captives or for ransom.

Not all kidnappings were politically motivated. The families of individuals seized by a militia often kidnapped on religious grounds the abductors, seeking to exchange their prisoners for their loved ones.

Officials at a centre for tracing Muslims operated by the Sunni grand mufti in west Beirut estimate that between 1983 and 1987 they helped negotiate the release of as many as 5,000 kidnap victims.

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Algerians did not reelect Benjedid, poll results were fake — newspaper

ALGIERS (R) — Fewer than one in five Algerians voted to reelect former President Chadli Benjedid in 1988 but the government gave a figure of more than 80 per cent, according to a report published by the newspaper Essalon on Wednesday.

The Arabic-language paper said Mr. Benjedid who resigned last January mid-way through his third term, received a "yes" vote from 18.84 per cent of the 11,634,138 voters in December 1988.

The official results said he won 81.17 per cent support.

According to an Interior Ministry report which the newspaper called "the real results," 50.19 per cent voted against Mr. Benjedid the only presidential candidate. In the capital Algiers only six per cent backed his candidature.

The rest of the ballot papers were spoilt.

In the western region of Tipaza, where the Benjedid's brother-in-law ran the coastal town, only 0.4 per cent backed the president, the paper said.

Mr. Benjedid left office early this year. Diplomats said he was forced out by military and other officials angered by his apparent willingness to go ahead with election which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

He was replaced by a five-man presidency and the FIS was subsequently hanged by the courts.

Elections

Presidential elections could take place before the end of the year and the head of the five-man committee ruling the nation could be a candidate, Communications Minister Abou Bakr Belkaid said Tuesday.



Chadli Benjedid

Mr. Belkaid, speaking to foreign journalists, said presidential elections could take place by year's end "if all the political conditions are assembled."

The candidacy of Mohammed Boudiaf, president of the High State Committee, is a "strong hypothesis," the minister said.

Mr. Boudiaf, 72, returned from decades of exile in Morocco to head the committee.

The committee came to power after the resignation of Mr. Benjedid by the committee set its reign until December 1992, the normal end of Mr. Benjedid's term in office, and said it would organise presidential and parliamentary elections.

The legislative vote was cancelled midway when a FIS victory appeared certain. Mr. Benjedid secretly dissolved the previous parliament, leaving the country in the hands of the committee.

Authorities, meanwhile, continued a process of partial releases of fundamentalists and sympathizers from Sahara Desert detention camps, with 200 more freed Tuesday from the Reggane camp, officials said.

About 7,000 people were detained in a crackdown that followed the leadership changeover, according to the Interior Ministry. More than 3,000 have reportedly been freed since April.

Algeria's university minister Tuesday took over the education portfolio with power to call on the Defence Ministry if necessary to stop exam cheating in a re-set of papers by over 160,000 schoolchildren.

A statement from Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali's office said Djillali Liabes would act as education minister after Ali Ben Mohammad resigned on Monday.

Mr. Ben Mohammad resigned after the government cancelled the baccalaureate science series of examinations for university entrance after a massive leak of papers before the exams which finished only last week.

"... During this process, the education minister and teachers can use logistical and human means from other ministries, notably the national defence and interior (ministries)," the statement said.

Some students had said advance copies of papers could be picked up at hairdressers and local milk bars. The government promised exemplary punishment for those who leaked them, saying it was a deliberate attempt to destabilise the country already shaken earlier this year.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Doc: "Sant'Antoni Sauvages"
18:35 News in French
19:00 News in Arabic
19:15 Le Cirque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 European Soccer Championship
22:00 News in English
22:30 Movie of the Week: "Children of the Bride"

PRAYER TIMES

6:51 Fajr
12:35 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:50 Dhur
14:16 'Asr
15:47 Maghreb
17:22 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Turnants Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 625430
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 625326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824 and 649322
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14 / 26
Aqaba 21 / 36
Dhahran 13 / 29
Jordan Valley 19 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings:

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wael Dattani 774800
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Issam Al Ammar 802034
Dr. Ramez Mizawi 894788
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 776336
Al Asama pharmacy 637055
Nadroski pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shucinski pharmacy 637660

DRBID:
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababneh (376)
Al Sharer pharmacy (963238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al Lawad (—)

Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 63041
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 592, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893930
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 894667
Complaints 894667
Assume Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 012320
Central Amman Telephone 630321
Reprints 623101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 613613/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 62362
Malles, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843402
Al-Mushar Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdali 66512737
Al-Anis, Abdali 6641646
Ibrahim, Al-Mahjaza 7711013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Aila Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

More legal protection for non-smokers planned

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health is preparing to amend regulations on public health safety and smoking to provide more protection to non-smokers, Health Minister Aref Bataineh said Wednesday.

Indeed, Jordan was among the first countries in the world to ban promoting the sale of tobacco in the media and regulations in this concern issued in 1977 require amendments to cope with the present needs, the minister said in a keynote speech at the opening of a seminar on Safety Against Smoking, organised by the National Anti-Smoking Society.

The Ministry of Health's drive to combat smoking is rather difficult and will continue to be so unless a national strategy is drawn up, Dr. Bataineh said in the address, excerpts from which were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said that reducing smoking can become an international economic problem unless alternative



Aref Al Bataineh

sources of income for those countries depending on tobacco growing for income are found. According to Dr. Bataineh, about 2.5 million people would die each year from smoking, many of those people while in their prime years.

Society President Zuhair

Malhas told the meeting that the society had been annually organising a non-smoking day in a show of determination to fight the tobacco puffing habit.

In fact, Jordan's observance of this year's non-smoking day coincides with the end of the Earth Summit in Brazil, which urged nations world wide to coordinate national strategies to protect the environment, Dr. Malhas noted. The non-smoking day is also observed to back Jordan's national strategy on the environment which calls on businesses to create non-smoking areas for workers.

This strategy is in line with recommendations from the World Health Organisation (WHO). Dr. Malhas said smoking not only kills people and harms public health but also endangers public property and pollutes the atmosphere.

He said that smoking was found to have caused fires at homes, offices and forests and was accountable for about 25 per cent of fires around the world. In

Jordan, statistics show that cigarettes were responsible for 16 per cent of the total fires, Dr. Malhas noted.

In his statement on non-smoking last year, Dr. Malhas was quoted as saying that nearly 70 per cent of Jordanian adults were addicted to smoking.

As a basic human right non-smokers, have the right to live in unpolluted atmosphere free of smoke and society must take all measures to ensure that right is protected at home and at work, Dr. Malhas said.

Jordanian laws and regulations protect non-smokers and public health, he noted, adding that it was high time to work out a law that would not only protect the non-smokers but also protect the environment and the national economy.

Participants in the seminar will discuss topics related to protection of public health, the rights of citizens to pure and uncontaminated air at work and the adverse effects of smoking on the environment in general.



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

Press, political party laws get priority

AMMAN (J.T.) — To prepare for the opening of extraordinary parliamentary session on June 20, Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat held a series of meetings on Wednesday with members of parliament's Standing Bureau, as well as heads and rapporteurs of House committees and heads of parliamentary blocs to discuss topics on the agenda and other matters.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the meetings resulted in an agreement to allow standing bureau and the House's legal committee to priorities the items on the session's agenda.

The agency said that the political parties and the press and publication laws, as well as a new labour law, will be given top priority at the discussions.

Dr. Arabiyat was quoted Monday as saying that he hoped the House would be able to deal with all the topics on the agenda fixed by a Royal Decree issued last week.

In addition to the political parties and the press and publications law, the Royal Decree named a host of draft laws and amendments to existing laws to be made.

Petra said that Wednesday's meetings decided that the Lower House after June 20 shall hold regular meetings every week on Wednesdays and Sundays. The Lower House will also hold an additional meeting on Mondays to discuss national and political issues and parliamentary committees' reports to the House.

It was also agreed on Wednesday that the House Speaker should follow up a House initiative to try to apply laws against people making illegal profits and committing economic crimes, the agency stated.

According to Petra, Dr. Arabiyat has already arranged for the House members to meet the day after the opening session on Saturday to embark on discussing topics on the agenda.



The Dome of the Rock in occupied Jerusalem (photo by Nidal Ibrahim)

Bids to restore holy shrine referred to technical sub-committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government-appointed committee in charge of restoring the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem Wednesday opened bids submitted by five international firms.

The committee later announced that it had referred the choice of a firm to a technical sub-committee, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The meeting was chaired by acting Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yousef Mbeideen who said in a statement to Petra that the technical committee would now study the bids and report its recommendations to the government-appointed committee.

That committee is scheduled to meet Sunday evening to examine the report to decide which firm should be given the contract, the minister said.

Last month Dr. Mbeideen

said blueprints for the project were ready and that the project will be divided into two parts to include restoring the Dome, installing an early fire alarm system, and paving the marble on the external parts of the Dome.

According to the Petra report, the committee, at its Wednesday meeting, agreed to begin the restoration by July 10.

Jordan had announced its commitment to cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock noting that the commitment was in line with the Kingdom's policy to support Palestinians and to safeguard the holy shrines.

His Majesty King Hussein told delegates from the occupied West Bank last month that he was making a personal donation of \$8.24 million towards the restoration.

Jordan also made it clear that the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural

Organisation (UNESCO) should not interfere in the work of the committee. Jordan has noted that restoring and upkeeping the holy shrines of Jerusalem were the responsibility of the committee, which is appointed by the Jordanian government five decades ago.

Saudi Arabia has announced it was donating \$10 million for repairing the shrines through UNESCO.

According to the committee members, Jordan has spent over JD164 million on the holy places since 1948.

In the 1980s, the holy shrines were greatly damaged, partly from natural causes, according to Dr. Mbeideen.

The minister told Jordan Television last month that Jordan considered restoring the holy places as a national and religious duty and that the Jordanian government was determined to finance the work regardless of the cost.

Nations to consider UNRWA finances and Palestinian conditions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) is meeting with 25 delegates from donor nations in Amman next Tuesday to discuss vital issues of the agency that has been operating in the Middle East since 1950.

The delegates represent countries that make financial and other contributions to the agency, which offers educational, health and social services to the more than one million Palestinians in the diaspora and under Israeli occupation.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the two-day meeting will focus on the agency's

financial and the economic and social conditions of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Petra, said that UNRWA's director of operations in Gaza will submit a general report on the situation in the occupied strip and that the delegates will be making field trips to UNRWA centres in the Kingdom before travelling to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for a similar tour.

The European Community (EC) announced Wednesday that it was granting about \$6.7 million to UNRWA to help it build the first major hospital in the Gaza Strip. The 232-bed general hospital will serve a rapidly increasing Palestinian population, now

totaling over 780,000, of whom 550,000 are refugees, according to a press release issued by the UNRWA office in Amman on Wednesday.

It said that the hospital will be located near Khan Younis in the southern part of the Gaza Strip and that construction will start early next year. It is scheduled to open in 1995. The press release said that health conditions in the Gaza Strip have deteriorated in recent years and that the demand for medical care has increased dramatically.

The EC's recent grant is expected to cover construction costs. But the equipment and related expenses prior to opening

will be about \$6 million and an additional \$15 million will be needed later to staff and run the hospital for the first three years, the press release said.

The EC is the single largest donor to UNRWA's regular budget. In 1991 its contributions totalled more than \$100 million and the community also responded quickly to UNRWA's appeal for emergency funds in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Among those countries to be represented at Tuesday's meeting, according to Petra, are Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the three countries that host the main body of the Palestinian refugees in the diaspora.

Graduates complain about Ministry of Education policy

By Maha Adhisi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Controversy surrounds the verification of degrees from French universities because the ministries of education and higher education do not recognise the undergraduate degree — "la licence" — from France. Students carrying those degrees are treated as if they only have a secondary school certificate and are not given the same work opportunities and benefits that other university degree holders in Jordan have.

Although some employees at the ministries of education and higher education responsible for verifying certificates claim that the French certificates are recognised, students carrying the degrees have for several years been faced with dead ends imposed by the specialisation committee for the verification of certificates. The Ministry of Higher Education, which says their certificates are not valid. This committee issues its decision upon an "expert's" opinion.

After visiting France, the expert said that the degree, which takes only three years to complete, is equal to three years of university. But, he did not consider that to enter a French university a student must complete 13 years of pre-university studies, a degree from which is automatically verified in Jordan.

An informed source at the Ministry of Education who preferred not to be named said that the licence certificate can be verified under certain conditions. "The certificate must be verified by the Jordanian embassy in Paris, the ministry of education in France. Otherwise, the certificate is taken to the French embassy in Jordan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the ministry of education or higher education for all these areas to verify the certificate," he said.

Ibrahim Rabadi, a graduate from France, said that he found no hope when he tried these areas for the verification of his certificate, which he obtained in 1977. "French certificates were automatically verified in Jordan from 1975 to 1982, after which verification of the licence certificate was stopped," Mr. Rabadi said. "Although I obtained my licence in 1977, the new restriction on certificate verification is now

being applied to me," he said, adding that he was given a complete scholarship by the French government in coordination with the Jordanian government to study French literature, and upon returning and requiring to verify his certificate he was surprised to find that he could not.

Mr. Rabadi, one of many such students, feels that this is unfair treatment and feels he cannot qualify for a degree requiring job although he is carrying a certificate which is considered in the United States and Britain, among many other countries, as equivalent to a university degree in French literature.

Another student said that his case was presented to professors of French literature at Yarmouk University for evaluation. "These professors approved the certificate as equivalent to the same degree from Yarmouk University and advised the committee of specialisation at the Ministry of Higher Education which meets each Wednesday, to approve the certificate. But they refused to do that," he said.

The French Cultural attaché, Philippe Cardinal, said that according to a European Commission decision, taken in 1988 and which went into effect in 1991, the licence is considered the equivalent of the bachelors of arts or sciences degree. He said that Jordan still does not take this decision into consideration, although the ambassador of France in Jordan and himself have been working on making the recognition of the licence in Jordan possible.

Sources at the French embassy said that the education system in France is very severe with both an oral and a written exam that must be satisfied at each level before students can move to the next level. "This education system is quite difficult and three years of hard work are invested to obtain the licence," he said. "To get the equivalent of a masters degree, one more year of studies after the licence is necessary. This certificate is called the maîtrise and is equivalent all over the world to the masters degree," she said.

The Ministry of Higher Education considers the maîtrise as equivalent to the bachelors degree, although it fails to inform scholarship students of this fact before they go to France and come back with the licence.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Iceland's president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday sent a cable to President Vigdis Finnbogadóttir of Iceland, congratulating her in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on Iceland's national day. The King voiced hope for enhancing friendship and cooperation between their countries. The King also expressed hope that joint efforts for world peace and cooperation will be intensified.

Prince attends graduation ceremony

IRBID (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein attended Wednesday the graduation ceremony of the fourth batch of students from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). Prince Faisal distributed diplomas to the 459 graduating students.

Leadership training for women begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-week training programme for local women leaders in Amman, Tafelch, Karak, Aqaba, Irbid and Madaba started here Wednesday. The programme, organised by the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) includes lectures and demonstrations about the role of pioneering women in developing local communities and enhancing community participation including the promotion of health education and social work. Taking part in the programme are 120 trainees from the various parts of Jordan.

Jalloun contributes to 'Stories from Petra'

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab writer Taber Ben Jalloun arrived in Amman on Wednesday on a several-day visit to Jordan to participate in a book project entitled "Stories from Petra." The project is carried out by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in cooperation with the office of the French cultural attaché in Amman. Mr. Ben Jalloun will be staying at Petra until June 22 to contribute to the book.

Under The Patronage
Of His Excellency
The Minister Of Tourism & Archaeology
with the participation of:
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★ Jordanian Theatre Centre
A Night That Will Not Be Forgotten



and for the first time in Jordan we invite you to participate in
"JORDAN BY NIGHT"

on the pool side of
The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel
start on 21/6/1992 at seven o'clock
The programme consists of:

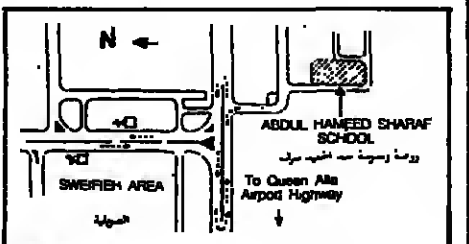
- ★ Photographic pictures & slides of all Jordanian archaeological sites in different languages
- ★ Book show for tourism & archaeology
- ★ Folklore dance & fashion show
- A- Marriage ceremonies
- B- Harvesting season
- C- Music played on rababa & oud
- D- Folklore dinner party included

Tickets sold at:
Jordan Intercontinental Hotel
JD 20 single/JD 40 per couple

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Jordan Times

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Initiative's first step

THE ARAB League's request for an emergency session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) to deal with the "deteriorating situation" in the occupied Arab territories in general and the Gaza Strip in particular is a timely initiative. The situation in the West Bank and Gaza has so deteriorated, on the eve of the Israeli general elections due to start on June 23, that it warrants speedy international intervention and action. The relevancy and effectiveness of the United Nations human rights endeavours are at stake and unless the UNHRC can show that it is capable of timely rectification of gross and systematic violations of human rights, the entire effort of the international organisation to promote and protect human rights worldwide would be open to question.

The UNHRC has hitherto contented itself with annual meetings lasting few weeks every spring to discuss a variety of human rights issues that are often characterised by an inherent inability to respond to violations such as those being committed by Israel against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories. As the U.N. spokesman has confirmed, UNHRC has never been called for an extraordinary session before and the request of the Arab League for such a session may very well go down in the annals of the history of the commission as the very catalyst and stimulus for reactivating and rejuvenating the principal U.N. body seized with human rights subjects with a view to starting the long journey of making the U.N. efforts in this domain more vibrant and responsive. With the adoption of new procedures by the commission last year allowing it to convene in an extraordinary session, the stage is now set for the main human rights body to show itself in a meaningful and operational way against persistent Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights.

Yet the recent Arab initiative is bound to encounter difficulties both financial and administrative. The summer season in Geneva is a human rights period that stretches the U.N. facilities and capacities to the limit. There are no less than five major human rights meetings scheduled at the U.N. headquarters in the Swiss city between now and the end of August. To service all these bodies is a formidable task that already taxes the human resources of the U.N. Perhaps a more practical way to deal with the alarming human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is to put these pressing issues before the U.N. Sub-Commission on Human Rights, which is scheduled to begin its deliberations in early August. An earlier forum to deal with such matters could be the Human Rights Committee (HRC), which is also scheduled to begin its work in early July. The HRC is the principal international body that monitors the application and observance of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which happens to be also applicable in occupied and non-self-governing territories. Since Israel has belatedly ratified that covenant, it would be timely to request the HRC as well to put the Israeli human rights violations on its agenda.

Unless and until the U.N. earmarks more funds to its human rights efforts, something that it has refused to do till now in spite of all the rhetoric in favour of human rights causes, the existing U.N. fora may never be able to deal with grave human rights violations on an emergency basis. If UNHRC ends up being unable to take up the challenge posed by the Arab League, it would naturally be high time for the entire international human rights effort to be reviewed and streamlined on a more effective and workable basis.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday warned that all Arab states are targeted by the hostile forces which rallied against Iraq in the Gulf war and that no single state will escape conspiracies. It is rather naive to believe that the Gulf war was the last in the tragedies befalling the Arabs, as there are more coming, and the enemies are busy hatching plots and quietly preparing plans for their implementation, said the daily. It is regrettable to see many Arab regimes oblivious to this fact or showing indifference to the coming events, warned the daily. It said that what is being hatched against Iraq is a great danger to all Arabs, whether rich or poor, or whether aligned themselves behind the Americans or not. There is a major conspiracy being concocted against Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Algeria all together or one by one, said the paper. Even those Arabs who have realised the facts about the coming danger are not doing anything to avert the looming tragedy; and the Arabs in the Gulf have found new allies not among the Arab states, which had signed the Damascus Declaration, but among the enemies of the Arab World, the paper pointed out. It said that it should be emphasised that the enemies of the Arabs and the Muslims can never be allies or friends and it is time for the Arab states to wake up and realise this important fact before it is too late.

SAWT AL SHAAR daily criticised the Islamic nations in general and the Arab countries in particular for involving themselves in an internal struggle in Yugoslavia. It is astonishing to hear some Islamic states expressing willingness to interfere militarily in the war under the pretext of saving the Muslim communities from the Serbian onslaught, it said. If the Muslim nations are really concerned over the fate of Muslims, they should turn their attention to the Iraqi Muslims who are facing starvation and should end the embargo on the Iraqi Muslims, called the daily. It said that the Muslim nations led by Turkey are looking on and doing nothing against continued Israeli atrocities against the Muslim people of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and in the face of Israel's continued acts of aggression on southern Lebanon. The paper said that the Muslim nations have failed so far to rally for the sake of saving Jerusalem and the holy shrines of Al Haram Al Sharif from the desecration committed by the Israeli authorities. It seems that those Islamic countries trying to interfere in Yugoslavia, said the paper, are rather concerned with safeguarding their own selfish interests without any real concern over the fate of the Muslim people of that country.

Arabs should help shape world order

By Tom Porteous

CAIRO — "The Arab political order as it exists now is an empty order," said Tahseer Basheer in an interview in Cairo before flying off to the United States for a round of conferences and lectures. "It is an order of formalism, without spirit, and I don't see in sight any reforms even being proposed to rectify this." This is the sobering starting point for Mr. Basheer's analysis of the modern Arab predicament.

Mr. Basheer is professional about giving interviews. He has been doing it for the past four decades; his usual subject is "the state of the Arab World." In an hour-long interview, he touched on the Islamic movements in Algeria and the Sudan, the Arab-Israeli peace process, the achievements and failures of the former Egyptian President Nasser, Libya's predicament because of its alleged involvement in international terrorism, sectarian conflict in southern Egypt, the challenge posed to the Arab World by the breakup of the Soviet Union, and the aftermath of the Gulf War.

Always an outspoken speaker and reliable explainer of the complexities of Arab politics, Mr. Basheer's locution and his expertise are partly the product of his career and partly the explanation for his success at it. He was president of the Arab Students Union of America at the time of Egypt's 1952 revolution, a member of Egypt's delegation to the United Nations during the 1956 Suez crisis, the government spokesman under President Nasser and Sadat and a participant in the negotiations which led to Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979. He has also served as ambassador to Canada, representative to the Arab League and a fellow of the Harvard International Centre. Since his retirement from government service — he now writes, gives lectures and attends conferences worldwide — he has indulged freely in what seems to be his favourite sport: precise, independent political criticism. He does it with a sharp tongue and an open mind.

Mr. Basheer sees the main events of Arab politics of recent years against the background of the Arabs' failure to create a meaningful political order on the basis of their common language, history, culture and interests. The Kuwait and Iraq.

"The Arab system — the Arab League and the Joint Arab Defence Agreement — has proven incapable of matching the challenge of the modern situation," said Mr. Basheer, referring to the Gulf crisis and its aftermath. "There was no way of getting Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait without calling in the world, and calling in the world means calling in the Americans; once you call in the Americans, Arab defence today in the Gulf is American defence."

Mr. Basheer also notes a widening gulf between the regimes and the people — a state of affairs that was well dramatised by the recent political crisis in Algeria and the failure of that country's democratic experiment in the face of rising fundamentalism seeking to destroy all government structures, he says. "We are walking in terra incognita. It is uncharted territory. People feel uneasy about the penetration of the Arab system. They feel uneasy about the regimes not living up to their sense of dignity — and the regimes are aware of this, so they have very good police systems to control their people." For poor countries like Egypt, Algeria or Morocco, this moral and political crisis comes on top of severe economic and social difficulties that exacerbate the situation.

Mr. Basheer points out that Arabs are now having to face up to their weaknesses in a generally hostile international order much changed since the Gulf war and the collapse of communism — changed largely to the detriment of the Arabs. There are two possible reactions to this: sullen indignation or practical realism. Mr. Basheer's rhetoric, like that of many Arab commentators, contains shades of both.

"How come the international order and the U.N. Security Council are implemented only against the Arabs?" he exclaimed at one point. "Now the United States picks on Qadhafi. I don't know if he is a culprit or not. He has certainly caused a lot of problems and wasted his country's resources, but I don't want to see the Libyan people suffer just because their leader is too weak a target ... I object to this. I will solve it to the advantage of Israel. Arab sulking and withdrawing will give Israel the chance to swallow the land whole and the rest of the world will give its blessing."

But for all Mr. Basheer's professional indignation over what he perceives as the West's victimisation of Libya or the Palestinians, he is enough of a politician to recognise that for the time being the most practical policy for Arabs is to face international realities and to make the most of them. He also helped forge and promote Cairo's realistic, cooperative and so-called "moderate" policy towards the prevailing world order in the 1970s and 1980s.

"The Egyptian government has to deal with the real world," said Mr. Basheer. "In the real world it cannot dictate to the Americans ... It is better for Egypt to get in on the new international order while it is still being molded. There is no point jumping out of the game and crying 'foul'. We have to stay in the game and correct ... the excesses of the new order."

Most recently, this realism on the part of Egypt has had an impact on its policy towards the Libyan affair and the present Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. In both, Cairo has been able to use the influence it has built up in the West to play a central and moderating role. "Anyone who cares about the Palestinians has to face the reality and not the dream," said Mr. Basheer. "The Palestinians have wasted 40 years in dreams, and the dreams ended in a nightmare. It is a fact that the

Americans are not going to send any army to the occupied territories or to bomb Tel Aviv in order to get Israel out of the occupied lands. All we can hope to achieve is a Palestinian political entity living in peace, almost demilitarised, with Israel. War will not solve anything, and if it does, it will solve it to the advantage of Israel. Arab sulking and withdrawing will give Israel the chance to swallow the land whole and the rest of the world will give its blessing."

"In the real world it (Egypt) cannot dictate to the Americans. ... It is better for Egypt to get in on the new international order while it is still being held. There is no point jumping out of the game and crying 'foul'. We have to stay in the game and correct ... the excesses of the new order."

But, given the snail's pace of the present negotiations, continuous Israeli abstractionism and the rate of Israel's illegal settlement of the occupied territories, many Palestinians are asking whether even this realism will bring any result, whether even the present, much compromised Arab demands will be met.

"Those who seek justice do not understand anything about international relations," Mr. Basheer noted. "The format is not about justice. But, for the first time since the creation of Israel ... all the issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict have been put on the agenda. By putting this agenda on the negotiating table we can now arrest — if we are successful — the deterioration of the position and hopefully reach an agreement that both sides are capable of living with. We are really in a pre-negotiation mode, until the Israeli and U.S. elections. By December a new American administration might disband the whole exercise. So moves towards serious negotiation depend on the dynamism set in the world from next January onwards and how the internal Israeli debate reacts to it."

According to Mr. Basheer, the opponents of peace within Israel will have to come to terms with the fact that while they can have a "Greater Israel" by force, at an ever increasing cost, that greater Israel will contain half as many Palestinian Arabs as Jews, even allowing for an influx of one million Soviet Jews. They would have a multilingual, multicultural and multireligious community. While Israel's opponents of a peace settlement hope they can resolve this contradiction by a mass transfer of Palestinians from the occupied territories, Mr. Basheer insists that this is pure fantasy, for there is "nowhere for them to go."

About the prospects for peace, Mr. Basheer says he is neither optimistic nor pessimistic. He characterises the negotiations as the only thing to do "until the world is seized of the fact that Israel is trying to annex a land, and a people by force, and is the only country in the world today that is doing that" — World News Link.

Hope and despair in once-vibrant capital

By Slobodan Lekic
By The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA — Black smoke billowed from burning farmhouses in lush green mountain valleys, joining a dense cloud rising into the pristine blue sky. Blue-helmeted French gunners swivelled the turrets on their armoured cars, training binoculars at the devastated villages. It was my last image on the way out of Bosnia-Herzegovina as I manoeuvred my bullet-torn car into a safe niche in the U.N. convoy snaking through mountain passes on its way from Sarajevo to Belgrade.

I had just spent nine days in the battered capital of Bosnia, where nearly three months of daily shelling had transformed a lovely city encircled by mountains, with rows of houses cascading down sloping streets, into a nightmarish scene of human suffering and destruction.

The suffering in the city of 600,000 people is immense. Sarajevo's citizens, who include Muslims, Serbs and Croats, have lived in a multicultural society for centuries. At least one-third of the marriages are ethnically mixed, as are neighbourhoods and apartment buildings.

Now, all three groups are huddling together in cellars and corridors of their apartment houses — chatting about what food is available, playing chess, comparing estimates of distances to the bliss.

Their questions to me as we sat together were difficult to answer: "Why are people in Belgrade so silent about this siege?" "How long will this last?" And "Is the West indifferent to what's happening here?"

Their determination not to allow the war to change the age-old friendship was apparent. When food became available to one, it was shared by all.

"If it hadn't been for the help of my neighbours, my family would have starved to death long ago," Fatima Petrovic, a Muslim woman married to a Serb plumber told me when I visited their flat.

When I'd ask people for their thoughts on possible partitioning of Bosnia, the response was unanimous: "Such a thing is impossible. We three peoples are too intermingled."

The leaders of Bosnia's main Serb party want even Sarajevo to be partitioned along ethnic lines. But this is opposed by residents, including local Serbs, who make up one-quarter of the population. "I am furious at the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS), not only for what they've done to the city but also because they make me ashamed of being a Serb," a

friend told me. The hub of Sarajevo has always been its ancient Turkish bazaar, an area called Basarsija. Life there used to be vibrant, a meeting place for young and old, where people came to shop, dine or stroll.

As I drove past this once-picturesque area, it was deserted. Shop windows were smashed, the cobblestoned streets uprooted, and some of the shops ablaze. Serb artillery has mercilessly pummeled every part of the city. About 150,000 shells, fired from the surrounding hills, are estimated to have hit.

As our convoy left the city via a tortuous Serb-controlled mountain trail, we passed Nikola Koljevic, a literature professor and second-in-command of the SDS, who waved amicably. He and several colleagues were standing on a vantage point, surveying the smoking city, chatting and laughing.

It was almost surreal. The insurgents have completely cut off Sarajevo from any supplies of food in what appears to be an effort to starve it into submission.

Having had a single encounter with a sniper, I marvelled at the courage that forced people out on the streets to forage for food. I remember a dead young woman, in a simple black dress, who lay crumpled on the sidewalk, a loaf of bread sticking out of the plastic bag she was carrying. Nobody dared approach her before dark, because the invisible sharpshooters often preyed on those trying to help the wounded or remove the dead.

Both sides in the conflict blame each other for the sniping campaign, but it is difficult to see what the government side would have to gain from instilling fear and insecurity in its own citizens. It was hard for me to understand just how dangerous the streets had become until I, too, was shot at.

I was driving my car when the rear window suddenly exploded. Something, which I initially took to be a piece of glass, tapped me on the head and fell into my collar.

When I arrived at U.N. headquarters, two soldiers inspecting the vehicle found a slug from a dragunov sniper rifle on the back seat. The bullet hit the trunk, splitting it apart, and ricocheted upwards through the windshield to the roof.

It then struck a spar in the ceiling above me, bounced downward through the fabric cover and fell on my head.

My initial reaction to the incident was a sense of relief that I'd not been hit. But then I was furious. Sarajevo defence officials estimate that of the 1,500 residents who have died since the fighting started early in April, 90 per cent were civilians.

But despite the fighting and destruction, historical precedent and the spirit of the people make one hopeful.

Ivo Andric, Bosnia's Nobel-prize-winning author, once wrote: "Whatever time of the day and from whatever vantage-point you contemplate Sarajevo, you always think the same thought: What a city passing away and dying, to arise reborn and transformed."

With end of cold war, arms control fades as goal

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — If Russia and the United States reach a long-range nuclear weapons accord this week as expected, it seems certain that traditional arms control will come to an end after decades as the dominant issue of world diplomacy.

Gone already are the endless years of bargaining in Geneva by teams of experts who get so involved in the intricacies of arms control that even their foreign ministers do not understand all the details.

Gone too are the judgements and antagonisms fed by fears that a deal is being struck with a cunning enemy who might someday pull a nuclear double-cross and unleash armageddon.

With the cold war over and the Soviet Union dismantled, Jay Kinsomsky of the Heritage Foundation told Congress recently: "The objectives of arms control are within reach. The arms race has ended, arms expenditures are down, the risk of war is reduced and there is every reason to believe Moscow soon will give up its most destabilising weapons. We can look forward to a new era in which ... adversarial arms control is left behind."

If President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin do agree unprecedented and radical new reduction at this week's Washington summit, the two sides are then likely to let the situation stabilise and resist indefinitely any pressure for quick additional cuts as they turn their attention to the economic side of their new relationship.

There has been pressure from liberal arms-control advocates for the United States and Russia to reduce arsenals to 1,000 strategic nuclear warheads each from current peaks of about 12,000 U.S. warheads and 10,000 Russian warheads.

Even conservative foreign policy specialists have suggested a 2,000-warhead level should be the goal.

At least publicly, the Bush administration has rejected anything below the 4,700-warhead target proposed by the president in his State of the Union address last January and now under discussion with Mr. Yeltsin.

But there is a chance in the negotiations now under way that Washington could accept something less than 4,700 warheads each if it means winning a Russian commitment to destroy all or part of Moscow's most lethal weapons — 154 land-based SS-18 missiles, each of which has 10 warheads.

The deal the two sides are trying to conclude at the summit that begins on Tuesday would go

far beyond the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) signed by Mr. Bush and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last year but not ratified.

Secretary of State James Baker and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev cast off the old style of arms control bargaining when they decided at talks in Moscow in February to personally take over the negotiations for Start II and to have a deal ready for the June summit — in record time.

Mr. Baker said at a pre-summit briefing on Monday that "four or five" problems remain to be resolved.

But even as 11th-hour negotiations went forward, there was debate over whether the United States should bother.

Most arms control advocates and U.S. officials argue that with all the political uncertainty in the former Soviet states, the United States should move fast to lock Moscow into the deepest weapons cuts possible.

Jack Mendelsohn of the Arms Control Association, think-tank predicts that if U.S. and Russian reductions under START and Start II go smoothly, pressure will build to reduce further.

But other experts say that is a

big "if" since the task is huge and Russia's capability for arms destruction is limited.

And if 2,000 or 1,000 warheads ever became a serious U.S.-Russian target, it would bring pressure on France, Britain and China — three nuclear powers so far excluded from arms talks because their arsenals are smaller — to join the cuts.

Some experts contend that while the West views Mr. Yeltsin as a democratic reformer and partner, that is not true of any politicians who might succeed him. Hence the cuts in strategic nuclear weapons cannot go too low, they say.

Some conservative experts have cast doubt on the need for the entire arms negotiations exercise.

This group says that while an accord promising deeper strategic cuts would be welcome, it is not needed because economic deterioration in the former Soviet Union will make advanced arms impossible to maintain.

They argue that by pouring so much energy into a last-minute arms deal, Mr. Bush is giving short shrift to the more profound problem of Russia's efforts to make the transition from a command economy to democratic capitalism.

LETTERS

No plastic bags, please!

To the Editor:

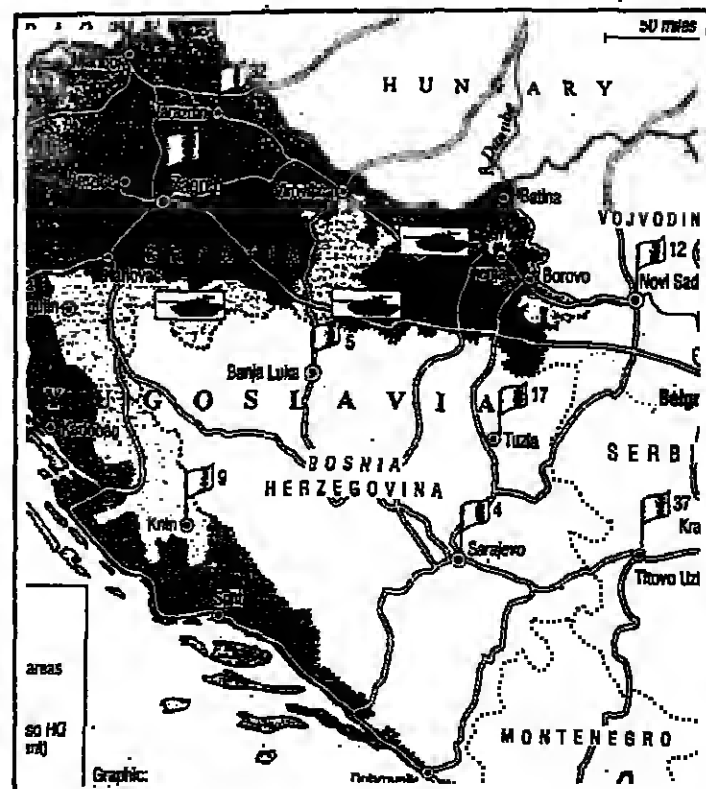
SINCE JORDAN participated in the Earth Summit on the environment, in Rio de Janeiro, may I draw the attention of the municipalities in the Kingdom to a minute detail which could save our country looking like "a desert covered by plastic bags?" Nowadays it seems that plastic bags are fashionable. Any department store, shop or even a small grocery where you buy anything, even a box of matches, delivers the goods to you very proudly in a plastic bag.

How about the different municipalities of Jordan taking care of this phenomenon by putting up signs in all department stores, shops and especially in small groceries, asking the public to please not help themselves to a plastic bag if they can?

I remember the good old days when you had to take your own shopping bag with you when you went out shopping because shops did not provide plastic bags with every box of matches you bought.

Mrs. N.S. Khoury,
P.O. Box 925872,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



Pharaoh's other-worldly goods moved to new home

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

CAIRO — King Tut's solid gold burial mask and hundreds more of his most valuable treasures have a new home at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

The King Tut Gallery was opened in early April, its 400 relics gleaming after a thorough spring cleaning. Every day, up to 7,000 visitors view the gold and glitter the boy

pharaoh took into the afterlife in 1323 B.C.

For decades, visitors waiting to see the treasures had to wait an hour or more in badly ventilated corridors, then were whisked through narrow aisles, past dusty, poorly lit showcases.

"It was awful, disgraceful," said Mohammad Saleh, the museum director. Generations of tourists knew the old gallery as the goldroom, for the burial pa-

raphernalia it held, or the jewelry room for the 143 stunning jewelry pieces that had adorned the wrappings of Tut's mummy.

Only 30 visitors at a time could fit into the old gallery. The new one accommodates 300.

Twelve galleries in the museum display 1,703 pieces from Pharaoh Tutankhamen's tomb in southern Egypt, which archaeologist Howard Carter found Nov. 22, 1922. Saleh said it took

two years to design the new gallery, by far the museum's most popular exhibit hall.

The Egyptian Museum opened its first Tutankhamen exhibit in 1927, when Carter's discovery of the treasure-packed tomb in the Valley Of The Kings was still fresh in the world's memory.

Americans and much of the developed world were introduced to King Tut three decades ago. Starting in November 1961, many of his

treasures toured the United States, Canada, Japan, France, England, the Soviet Union and West Germany.

Tut's most famous relic, the gallery's centerpiece, is a gold burial mask that covered the mummy's head and shoulders.

It depicts a youthful face with narrow eyes, fleshy lips and pierced ears beneath a striped headdress adorned with a vulture's head. The mask is more than 21 inches

(53 cms.) tall and weighs 22½ pounds (10 kilos).

Also in the new gallery are two of three coffins that cradled Tut's badly decomposed remains. The third coffin, with the mummy, was left in the tomb, now closed to tourists.

One coffin on display is wooden, with a thick coating of gold. The other, 6 feet 2 inches long (2 metres), is solid gold, worth \$1.7 million at the current market price.

British royal history more scandalous than Charles and Di

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — Scandal swirling round Britain's house of Windsor occupies the world's news media but it's small stuff in a ripe history of royal uproar and intrigue.

Monarchists have been scandalised by a stream of stories that the 11-year marriage of Princess Diana to royal heir Prince Charles is blighted by rows and threats of suicide.

Early in her marriage, the young princess is said to have despaired at his indifference and tried to kill herself on several occasions, once by cutting herself with a lemon

slicer.

Royalty-watchers say middle-class notions of morality are being applied which in past eras would have been dismissed with regal disdain.

If true, the problems surrounding the Charles-Diana marriage rank way down on the scale of Britain's royal tantrums.

George IV's Queen Caroline banged on the door of Westminster Abbey when he shut her out of his coronation.

Only her death in 1821 ended a painful row over his bid to get a divided parliament to pass an act letting him divorce her. He had earlier married Roman Catholic Maria Fitzherbert, but their union was dissolved and

hushed up to avoid a scandal. Scandal didn't seem to bother the mediaeval King Henry I. He had 20, possibly, 22, illegitimate children by six mistresses, an achievement noted in the "Guinness Book of Records."

But the most infamous king in British history was the 16th century Henry VIII, who had six wives and a legendary taste for the good life. He beheaded two queens, divorced two, one died in childbirth and one survived him.

Henry was not a man to be thwarted in love. He broke with the Vatican and set up the Church of England with himself as its supreme governor — a job the monarch retains to this day — in order to contract out of his first

marriage.

The spurned queen was Spain's Catherine of Aragon, who had by all accounts been an exemplary wife for many years but failed in the task of producing a politically-necessary male heir.

Henry was also in love with aristocratic beauty Anne Boleyn.

Scarcely were they married, however, than she stood accused of adultery. Henry sent to France for the best headsman of the day and accorded his second wife the special privilege of being executed by a sharpened sword, not a common axe.

For a queen to take a lover was treason. But for most of the monarchy's history, royal men have thought nothing of

choosing a mistress or two from among the well-born women of the land.

Charles II, known as the merry monarch, sired so many offspring that the aristocracy is full of people who can claim to trace their ancestry to the wrong side of his bed.

In the modern age, Edward VII indulged a prodigious taste for good living and other men's wives that scandalised his straight-laced mother Queen Victoria. A lover of the demi-monde, he was linked with actresses such as Lillie Langtry.

The royals have bizarre stories of their own to rival the best tabloid efforts of today about Queen Elizabeth's family, the Winds-

For example, George, Duke of Clarence, was drowned in a butt of malmsey, a sweet wine, in 1479, while Edward II was murdered by having a red-hot poker thrust into his behind.

Neither are the royals strangers to far-fetched stories in the media. In a famous case in 1911, the government took a newspaper editor to court on behalf of George V for saying the king was a bigamist. The editor spent a year in jail.

But beside the scandal, there are signs of constancy. William of Orange is said to have been so consumed with grief at the loss of his wife Mary that he carried a lock of her hair, attached to a length of ribbon, until his death.

The secrets of the sun

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Peter Erskine was planning a career in the diplomatic service before he went to India on a Fulbright scholarship. "I was supposed to be looking at the Sino-Indian border dispute," recalls Mr. Erskine, who studied political science at Yale University, "but I fell in love with Indian sculpture and art." The experience changed the course of his life. He switched his scholarship to Indian sculpture and abandoned political science. Back in his native U.S., Mr. Erskine forged a new career as an artist. He went to art school for four years and became a sculptor, working on wall reliefs strongly inspired by what he had seen in India.

Three years ago he made another change. "I decided to experiment with the solar spectrum and immediately became gripped by it," said the Connecticut-born artist, now 50. Erskine began his experiments in his studio in Venice, California, using prisms to separate the sun's spectrum into colours, and mirrors to reflect the colours around the room.

The results so electrified him that he decided to pursue his work and use it as a new art form. The result is a major Rome exhibition that shows Erskine's multicoloured art in one of the most dramatic settings possible — Trajan's Market, the 2,000-year-old brick complex where ancient Romans shopped.

The show, called *Secrets of the Sun*, is not just about pretty colours. It is also about Mr. Erskine's growing concern with the environmental crisis and his desire to use his art to stimulate people to take action. "As I studied the sun I came to a greater understanding of nature and the terrible things we are doing to it," said Mr. Erskine. "My children are 9 and 13 and I have another son of 25. I'm concerned about the kind of future they're going to have."

hilitation is that facts and figures are so scientific and do not really convey anything," he added. "But if I can reach people in the midst of this wonderful, natural environment — sunlight — maybe it will move people."

Convincing Italian authorities to allow Mr. Erskine to stage his show on the grounds of one of Rome's most ancient monuments was not easy. The city council has always been sensitive about its cultural patrimony, and in 1985 a Rome court ruled that two exhibitions, staged in the Colosseum and the Circus Maximus, had been inappropriate uses of those sites. With the help of the Italian section of the International Solar Energy Society and a grant from the American Weisman Foundation, Mr. Erskine was given the green light for one of the most unusual exhibitions Rome has seen.

Mr. Erskine uses space-age equipment to bring sunlight into the ancient setting. A 4,000-lb heliostat, normally used in astronomy to measure sunspots, is set up in the courtyard. The heliostat compensates for the rotation of the earth and is computer-programmed to track the sun to within 1/100th of a degree over the next five years.

"I use a lot of high technology to produce these effects," said Mr. Erskine. "It's a metaphor for our obsession with technology and how we go for sensory gratification, but there is a price to pay — deforestation, ozone depletion, global warming and mass species extinction."

The heliostat beams the sun's rays onto giant mirrors, which reflect sunlight through the windows of some of the dozens of rooms or shops that make up Trajan's Market. Here, laser-cut prisms break the sunlight into a myriad of colours that bounce off more mirrors and play on surfaces such as ancient Roman capitals — pieces of marble columns and statuary.

visitors have to sign a declaration acknowledging that their lifestyles are contributing to the worldwide ecological crisis and, in the case of Rome, to the destruction of ancient monuments. Built by Apollodorus of Damascus, an architect much loved by the ancient Romans, Trajan's Market is a potent symbol of the precarious state of the environment, says Mr. Erskine.

A vital concept of the exhibition is that the people who visit it also participate. They don't white reflective space suits and, as they move round the rooms, they find 'they themselves have become multicoloured; as they move in and out of shadows, colours and shapes change to new patterns.'

"I didn't want this to be part of the elite art market. I am much more interested in seeing how the public responds," said Mr. Erskine. "Rather than looking at a canvas, it's as if the person was the canvas. They create art themselves, depending on where they walk and how they move."

The sight of white jumpsuit-clad people wandering around the ancient site creates a surreal effect. In the background, strange, wave-like music — the noise of the chaotic Rome traffic outside — is transformed into a different sound by microphones placed in clay amphoras in an upper room of the market. Musicians Bruce Odland and Sam Auinger discovered that these amphoras act as natural synthesizers.

Mr. Erskine finds the gravity of the ecological crisis deeply depressing. A positive outcome of his work the sun has been an understanding that an energy source exists that is clean and will be plentiful for the next 40 billion years and sends to Earth 35,000 times the energy we burn in fossil fuels each day. In keeping with the surroundings and the environmental theme of the show, the speakers used to project the sound are made of ceramic. Even the heliostat is powered

by solar panels.

One obstacle Mr. Erskine had not reckoned with was the capricious nature of the sun. A particularly wet Roman spring meant that the show was open for only five days in the first month. "You have to take that in stride because nature is what the exhibition is all about," he said philosophically.

That hiccup apart, the response has been encouraging, says the artist. Italians and tourists have come to the show and written enthusiastic comments on a bulletin board, set aside in a room at the end of the exhibition. "A lot of people have gotten excited about it," said Mr. Erskine. "It's not the usual kind of art experience people have." He adds, "I never believed there were absolutes or universalities in art, but I never found anyone who didn't like a rainbow." As he speaks, Mr. Erskine is suffused with cascades of psychedelic light. Near him, a marble statue of a toga-clad Roman senator turns into iridescent shades of greens, magentas and oranges.

In another room, a group of Italian students is fascinated as a model factory built by Mr. Erskine spews out multicoloured water vapor. "It's a symbol of the fossil fuel culture. It reminds me of smoggy sunsets in Los Angeles," said the artist. A Requiem Mass for Endangered Species plays in the background, and a resonant voice reads a roll-call of mammals and birds threatened with extinction. "Sixty million years ago dinosaurs became extinct. We are in the middle of the greatest mass extinction since then, and we're losing species at an incredibly high rate," said Mr. Erskine. "The general agreement is that we're losing one species every 15 minutes."

In a different chamber, visitors are encouraged to mount a bicycle clamped to the ground and pedal as hard as they can. The pedalling powers a dynamo hooked to a tape recorder on the hand-



By using a heliostat, prisms and mirrors, Peter Erskine brings sunshine into Trajan's market, a 2,000-year-old brick complex where ancient Romans did their shopping.

lebars. The voice on the tape supplies information on a non-fossil fuel energy, and a dial shows how much energy visitors have produced by their exertions. "One hundred watts (created by pedalling) produces the same energy as one square metre of solar paneling," said Mr. Erskine.

From Rome, Mr. Erskine hopes to take his exhibition to other countries. He already has a booking for Berlin and is talking to museum directors in Budapest and at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. he says each exhibition will be tailor-made for the context in which it is being staged.

The message, he says, is particularly important for the developing countries, where lack of funds and soaring populations make the threat to the environment even more acute. The example, says Mr. Erskine, must come from the industrialised nations. "If China and India have to go through the fossil

fuel stage and burn their 7,000 years of coal reserves to power locomotives and produce electricity, there's no hope of preventing runaway global warming," he said. "The rich nations have to develop energy efficiency and renewable technologies like solar energy that don't increase global warming and give them to the Chinese and everyone else."

Book reviews

Yearning for fundamentals

Islam and Human Rights: tradition and politics

By Ann Elizabeth Mayer
Pinter, London 1992, £35

There is much cant concerning the application of human rights in the Islamic world, as in the rest of the Third World. Cultural relativists claim that the Western origin of international human rights law makes it inapplicable to other cultures. Professor Mayer shows that such thinking can be demeaning, for it suggests Orientals and Occidentals have different natures and rights, as if there might be nothing wrong with executing, for example, Baha' or other dissenters in the Muslim world, while there would be everything wrong with doing the same thing in the West. The rights and freedoms enunciated in the Universal Declaration must be universal in applicability. That is their point and millions of Muslims living under repressive regimes must yearn for such fundamentals to be applied.

As for Western governments, they are cynically selective in their moral posturing. They turn a relatively blind eye to violations of friendly regimes, for example those of Zia Ul Haq in Pakistan, Sudan's Numeiri and the shah's Iran, but pillory Islamic Iran. Islamic regimes, of course, are no worse than non-Islamic ones. Remember Hjalmar? It was the worst use of chemical weapons since 1935, but that was not allowed to damage Euro-Iraqi trade — not until we suddenly discovered how awful Saddam Hussein was in 1990.

Then there are the regimes of the Muslim world. As Professor Mayer points out, only Saudi Arabia actually refused to sign the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, because it conflicted, in its view, with the Shari'a. At least it was honest, for virtually every other Middle Eastern state violates the Declaration daily.

But regimes in Muslim countries increasingly feel compelled to pay lip service to human rights law. Some have embraced the various Islamic human rights writings with which Mayer takes issue for their subordination of individual rights to the Shari'a, and more importantly to the interpretation of Shari'a exercised by the authorities. That can blow a very large whole indeed in individual freedoms. In practice regimes invoke traditionalism (calling it Shari'a) to legitimise oppression. Their motives are arguably profoundly anti-Islamic.

All these Islamic efforts to codify human rights dodge the central issue, bravely set out of Tunis by a number of Arab intellectuals in 1983, that ordinary citizens of the Arab World desperately need laws that will genuinely protect them from arbitrary persecution, imprisonment, torture and death at the hands of regimes that fear independent thought.

The real weakness of these attempts at human rights law, Mayer argues, is the futile attempt to bridge the gap between international law, based on reason (which may lead into the unknown), and Islamic tradition, based upon a given and static pool of ideas. At the heart of this is not necessarily a conflict with Islam (after all, Christianity has survived a similar challenge since the European Renaissance), but one between modernity and pre-modernity in thinking, echoing the important ideas contained in Hisham Sharabi's *Neopatriarchy* (Oxford 1986).

Professor Mayer has provided some hard thinking to Muslims serious about advancing human rights and a timely admonition to the practitioners of "political correctness" in the West. She deserves a wide audience.

David McDowall

Detailed but restrained

Desert Shield to Desert Storm: the second Gulf war

By Dilip Hiro

Harper Collins, London 1992, £25

DILIP Hiro is already well known for his meticulous analyses of current issues in the Middle East. It is hardly surprising, then, that he has now turned towards a study of the latest and most dramatic of the post-second world war conflicts in the region — the war fought in January and February 1991 by the U.N.-authorised and U.S.-led multinational coalition to force Iraq out of Kuwait after its invasion in August 1990.

The result is a detailed and complex study which, although it appeared some months after the first rush of over-hasty analyses of the conflict, benefits from the delay. Hiro only completed his writing in August 1991 and has thus been able to cover the whole of the war period and of the civil war that broke out immediately after it in detail. He has also been able to devote considerable space towards analysing the causes and precursors of the actual occupation of Kuwait, as well as trying to penetrate the official obscurity surrounding Western motives and decisions over the determination to go to war with Iraq at the start of 1991.

As a result, his study opens with a detailed account of the basic causes of the conflict which puts the actual events of August 1990 into context. He demonstrates that Iraq had no intention of invading Saudi Arabia and that the accounts of Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait were deliberately exaggerated. He also elucidates why the crisis dragged on and ended in war. By January 1991 Saddam Hussein knew well that he could not win a war with the coalition but also did not believe that he could survive simple withdrawal. Amongst the major coalition partners, on the other hand, there was a determination to make a military demonstration of such effect that crises of this kind could not be repeated.

Yet, despite all the mass of organised detail that Hiro brings together, the reader is still left with a series of unanswered questions. He does not in the final analysis, attempt to explain precisely why the major participants in the crisis took the basic decisions that they did. The real reasons for President Bush's stance, the real causes of Saddam Hussein's appalling misreading of the international environment, the real significance of the different positions adopted by the U.S. and Iraq in the abortive negotiations in Geneva on 9 January, 1991 and the real motivations that ended the war before the final drive to Baghdad — on these matters Dilip Hiro is silent.

To be fair, answers to these questions do not seem to have been his objective, for his book is deliberately restrained in its scope to the actual events and their antecedents. Yet, informed speculation on these additional matters would have transformed the book from being a detailed and well-organised review of the crisis into a significant analysis of it instead.

George Joffe

'Tis the season to watch football

By Maha Addasi

Once again it is football season and people are gathering before their television sets watching their favourite players with strange names kick the ball around for 90 minutes. These viewers are meanwhile munching popcorn, and building up to a crescendo, blindly stretching out to the crisp bowls and mechanically placing the popcorn in their mouths, not for a second allowing their eyes to be moved from the sacred screen. Imagine if you had to go across the room and go past the screen. That would be exactly like wanting to have your head chopped off by six or so dedicated fans in one swipe. But regardless of such hazards watching football is fun. It could be more fun than if we could locate the commentator, or just hear him talk.

The commentator's quietness could be one of two things. He is either not present at all or he is sulking in the studio refusing to comment because no one gave him a bowl of popcorn.

We know for sure that it can not be the former because we sometimes hear "him" fidget in the studio and we clutch our hearts thinking that "a gem will fall from this person's lips." But what we really get is not quite a gem, or even a pebble. Instead we get a comment like: "It would be good for the X team to win the game against the Y team. It would also be fine if they should draw. But if they lose that would be bad."

"Wow!" you might think. "Had he not told us this fantastic piece of information we would not have been able to continue watching this game." Anyway, at this point I will be satisfied to point out certain unique aspects about this commentator. It is often the case that sports analysts comment about the game as it goes on, yelling and screaming and almost having a cardiac arrest, when they see the football going anywhere near the goal. In our case, however, we only hear about the goal in the past tense, as in: "That was a goal." Like we did not already know. What is more this statement is said with such enthusiasm that it would make Clint Eastwood look like he is bouncing off the walls with hyperactivity. The commentator also qualifies his comment with another fabulous statement like: "This goal broke the pattern of boredom of this game."

But enough about this commentator. Let us zoom in on the fantastic game of football and talk about some of the players themselves.

These football players are such fit sportsmen that they recover very fast from injuries inflicted on them by their opponents during the match.

For example, you can see an injured player clutching his ankle and writhing in pain and looking like he may never, ever walk again. Then immediately after the referee issues



a warning yellow card to the opposing player responsible for the injury, he (the injured party) is up on his feet and running, with hair flying in wind, as if the injury never happened. But it could also be because of the good-quality muscle relaxant the medico uses.

Sometimes though the injury is very serious and muscle relaxants can not be used. In the match between Germany and Scotland, a German player was replaced during the last part of the second half. The new player, enthusiastic to go after the ball two minutes after he got in accidentally bashed his head against a team-mate's head, with the result that the bashee had to be carried off the football field with blood gushing from his head, while the bashee was still running around as if nothing happened. Well with no yellow card expected in this case, there was no need to waste time. Maybe the injured player did not really want to play, so he planned this whole scenario of getting injured, but it took a few drops of blood for his coach to believe him. Yeah that must be it. But we can never know for sure. Our commentator just did not comment.

How to fix New York?

By Rick Hampson
By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Professional attempts to improve this city of chaos have had decidedly mixed results, so a civic group invited amateurs — about 7 million of them — to submit their ideas.

The dabblers have suggested apple-shaped trash bins, "kickable newsstands," express sidewalks and monuments to Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe. They would privatise subway station restrooms, build a toll plaza under Central Park for southbound cars and coat

bridges with recycled plastic. That's the conservatives; the firebrands would raze the city or flood it.

What brought such people out of the woodwork? The Municipal Art Society's "call for ideas," which went out to schools, Con Edison customers, ethnic newspapers and other media, part of a "design New York" competition.

Ideas were offered by about 400 people, half of whom had no experience in urban design, but plenty of opinions about it. Winners will get no prize, just the satisfaction of seeing their ideas fleshed out

by professional designers in stage two of the contest. Respondents ranged from Tessa John-Connor, a schoolgirl who for some reason would route elevated subway trains through the fourth floor of apartment houses, to Christopher X. Brodeur, a former homeless man who — like most people — yearns for the return of public toilets.

Many focused on transportation. If they are heeded, city buses will have shelves for shopping bags, and riders who emerge disoriented from subway stations will find compasses set into the side-

walk.

As for skyscrapers, Jason Kunz would fit them with solar panels, while Marco Giovannoli favours retractable windmills. Ari Diacon wants to mount lasers atop them for the city's defence; unnecessary, perhaps, but Ari is 8 years old.

He's no wackier than Kim Knowlton, who wants to create stations where people can generate power by pedaling, and get paid for it; or Eric Latsky, who would turn Manhattan's congested 57th street into a canal with "crosstown gondola service."

French eating faster, better and drinking less wine

By Marilyn August
The Associated Press

PARIS — The French, a nation of gastronomes, are spending less time at the table, but may be eating better than their parents did. They linger less at lunch, over fewer courses and less bread, drink less wine and have discovered frozen food, take-outs and home delivery, just like Americans.

A study by the National Statistics Institute says these habits reflect a changing lifestyle laced with stress, lengthy work days and longer commutes as high city rents force people to the suburbs.

As more women take jobs, they are less willing to spend hours cooking.

Twenty years ago, any self-respecting French cook could whip up a white sauce, pastry crust or salad dressing from

scratch. Today, there is no shame in buying it from the grocery.

"My mother used to make her own vinaigrette fresh every night," said Corinne Gurfinkel, 35, who has three children. "But I buy it in bottles."

Supermarkets are the beneficiaries. In 1962, there were only 224 supermarkets in France. In 1991, the number was 7,043.

The Leclerc chain has increased frozen food sales by 10 per cent each year since 1988.

Statistics published in the weekly news magazine L'Express indicate one reason the French are eating better is that their meals are more balanced.

For instance, French people eat half as much sugar as they did in 1962, three times as much fresh fish and 30 per

cent more fresh fruit and vegetables.

Average annual consumption of potatoes and bread were down.

Baguettes, made from refined white flour, now compete with breads made of whole wheat, rye or bran flour.

Restaurateurs say there is a new attitude.

"Customers look very closely at prices," said Patrick Bramone, who manages the fashionable Bistrot Batifol. "At lunchtime, they're in a hurry, and so they usually order just a main course, never dessert."

A decade ago, he said, they lingered over three courses and ended with coffee and brandy.

The business lunch endures, but with major changes.

Yves Le Gougec, 46, a

computer salesman, recalls striking deals over Foie Gras, Canard à l'Orange and Mousse au Choclat.

"We used to have these big meals designed to impress the customers," he said. "Today, we sign the deal in the office and seal it over lunch. Lunches are less formal, more friendly, and we stay away from the heavier dishes in rich sauces."

A study says one in nine meals outside the home is eaten in a fast-food restaurant. Many French prefer fast food à la Française: "croque monsieur" (toasted ham and cheese), broiled chicken, cold cuts, cheese and salads.

These and dozens of other traditional dishes can be had, made fresh daily, at the "Traiteur," neighbourhood take-out shops whose business has boomed in recent years.

The boy with a thorn in his side

By E. Yaghi

Ghaleb and Reema had waited seven daughters until their one and only son Waheed was born. Then, the dotage began. "Reema, I'm very proud of you. You finally gave me a son!" her husband exclaimed after the baby's birth.

"Yes, I'm so happy too! He has many sisters to love and take care of him," the mama said.

"And spoil him too," reminded the papa. Thus ensued a policy of "Nothing's too good for Waheed," and "what Waheed wants, he gets!" The seven daughters were raised to cater to their brother's every whim and wish and as soon as he was old enough to reason, he discovered himself playing a very convenient and satisfying role in his master status of the one and only son. In spite of all the love that was constantly lavished on the child, he grew spoiled, over-indulged and selfish. The thorn slowly began to grow.

His parents were blinded by everything that darling Waheed did. "Oh, look Ghaleb, isn't he adorable?" Reema crooned.

"He certainly is!" the father verified with satisfaction.

Whenever guests visited Waheed's family, they were given the latest report about whatever clever thing Waheed said or did, but there were few stories if any about the seven other children who had already greatly erred at birth by being born girls instead of boys. Quite often, Ghaleb would take his only pride and joy for walks or trips and buy for him whatever he wanted. No toy was too good for his son and the youngster's pockets always jingled with coins. Even when the boy grew too old for toys, he still played around with toy-like gadgets so great was his fascination and so insatiable his desire for self-satisfaction. Toys were replaced by his own private television and video sets, his own boom beat radio with an intricate system of stereo amplifiers, and so on.

One day just as life was looking better and better for young Waheed, Ghaleb suffered a fatal heart attack. His death was sudden and unexpected and poor Reema who had little education was forced to work as a janitress for a company whose main aim was to make a profit no matter the cost of human effort or toil.

"Whatever am I going to do now? Ghaleb left little money and there are so many mouths to feed!" Reema wailed as she went off on her first day of work leaving her eight children behind at home to fend for themselves.

The years passed. The once soft spoken and gentle looking Reema grew rough and haggard. Her work was tough and her employers relentless slave drivers. She laboured twelve hour days and returned to her brood so exhausted that she would hardly stay awake in the evenings to chat with them or give them motherly advice.

At first Waheed was lost without his father's indulgences

and his mother's constant praise and attention, but he quickly got over this and began to also go out of the house for long hours at a time. During the scholastic year, he missed a lot of classes and that once "clever" boy began to get low marks. Later, he dropped out of school completely and he started hanging out with a corrupt gang of boys and soon learned how to steal those extravaganzas that he so dearly prized when his father was alive. He started to drink and then he landed in jail for his first offense. His mother was shocked, but yet managed to convince herself. "Oh, it's just boyish pranks. Boys will be boys after all."

The thorn grew bigger. Waheed wasn't just playing boyish pranks. All the time, to his undeciphering mother, he was turning into a hardened criminal. Reema, on the other hand, continued to brag to her friends and neighbours and anyone else who she could get to listen about her son's superior abilities and how he had had a few unfortunate breaks in life but was extraordinarily intelligent.

One day she announced, "I must look for a wife for my Waheed. Perhaps getting him married will settle him down and encourage him to search for a nice job. One that he deserves."

Waheed seemed to like the idea of marriage. Why not? He wasn't paying for the wedding and there would be a wife to serve him in addition to his mother and sisters. At last, Reema found a nice girl from a good but poor family to become her son's wife. A year later however, Waheed wasn't anymore settled than he had been and was still jobless. Now Reema had a daughter-in-law and a grandchild to support too. When Waheed landed in jail for the second time, Reema began to admit that something definitely was wrong. "Poor boy," she said sadly with a sigh, "life has been so hard for him since his father passed away. He must be confused!"

But still she didn't understand that her son was no good and she failed to see that thorn that was growing bigger and bigger in his side. She worked harder than ever to support her children, daughter-in-law and grandson. But the constant frustrations of her son's continuous conflicts with the law and his terrible choice of friends had finally made her realise that Waheed wasn't an innocent and good as she had always presumed. At this time, Waheed is in prison for theft and a multiple of other crimes. His mother wonders how could all her love go wrong and how is she ever going to be able to continue taking care of her son's family plus her own. The thorn finally grew bigger than Waheed and when it was too late, was noticed by all, even his mother. Little discipline, over-indulgence and constant praise had ruined forever that once innocent being who with a little more effort could have become a useful citizen of society instead of a burden of which his mother now complains. "Oh, that I never had a boy at all instead of one that gives me no rest and causes so many problems!"

Hewlett-Packard invents world's smallest disk

By Laura Myers

By The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, California — Hewlett-Packard CO. recently unveiled the world's smallest disk drive, a matchbox-sized device that can supply portable memory to machines like handheld computers and mobile phones.

The HP Kittyhawk personal storage module, a 1.3-inch (3.3-centimetre) disk drive, is a third smaller than the previous record 1.8-inch (4.5-centimetre) disk drive, can hold 21.4 megabytes of memory — equal to 14,389 typed pages, the company said. The most popular disk

drives used in computers today measure 2.5 inches (6.2-centimetres) and 3.5 inches (8.7 centimetres) and come with three to four times the amount of built-in memory. But the smaller size of HP's disk drive makes it more durable than larger disk drives, which has moving parts that often malfunction if bumped. The 1.3-inch disk drives, which becomes available this fall, also can be easily removed because they connect to machines from the outside.

"When you make them small they'll take more shake, rattle and roll without much effect," said Bob Katzev, an industry analyst with the Mountain View-based

Disk-Trend, Inc. "I think this product will do well in a lot of niche markets where portable machines need extra memory."

Hewlett-Packard, the Palo Alto-based company that makes an array of computers and high-tech products, made the small disk drive for its own machines, but plans to sell them to companies that might want more memory storage for small portable computers, cellular phones and medical equipment.

The small disk drive would be an alternative to solid state memory, or flash memory cards that also can hold extra memory but at three or more times the cost. HP

plans to sell its 1.3-inch disk drive for \$450 per unit, or for \$250 when ordered in quantities of 100,000.

"This is just the beginning for the miniaturisation of disk drives," said Bruce Spenser, general manager of HP's disk memory division in Boise. "It opens up a whole new world of opportunity for mobile types of markets because of its ruggedness. It can be handled without any effect."

The disk drive is so small Hewlett-Packard needed help from the Citizen Watch Co. Ltd. of Japan, to put the device together with screws too small to be seen by the naked eye.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 18

8:30 The Simpsons

9:10 European Soccer Championship Match

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Children Of The Bride

Starring: Patric Duffy and Kristy McNichol.

Friday, June 19

8:30 Coach

The Pineapple

The team is thrilled to be in Hawaii but coach Hayden keeps them on their toes.

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

In Service Of All The Dead

Inspector Morse solves the

mystery of five enemies and a suicide in the vicinity of the church.

Saturday, June 20

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Menu For Murder

Starring: Douglas Barr and Jane Carr

Two PTA members are killed and the new PTA president helps the investigating detective to uncover the murderer.

Sunday, June 21

8:30 Wings

All In The Family

9:10 Documentary

Big Ice

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

God Bless The Child

Does a parent, who believes in spiritual healing, have the right not to call a doctor for his extremely ill child?

Monday, June 22

8:30 Close To Home

The Horse Race

Two Mafia men ask the vet doctor James, to make their horses win the race.

9:10 European Soccer Championship Match

10:00 News In English

10:15 Second Half Of The Match

11:05 Gold

Tuesday, June 23

8:30 Acropolis Now

9:10 Palace Guard

10:00 News In English

10:20 A Tale Of Two Cities

Memories

Logan tries to save the girl who lost her money

10:00 News In English

10:20 Oscar Film

The Country Girl

Starring: Grace Kelly and William Holden

An old classic about an actor-singer who is falling apart but finds encouragement from his wife and friend.

Wednesday, June 24

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Zak wins the elections against Jessie in a clean competition.

9:10 Documentary — Visionaries

In Grave Danger Of Falling Food

10:00 News In English

10:20 A Tale Of Two Cities

Watercar — an ecologist's dream

By Nicholas Platt
Reuters

SAO PAULO, Brazil — It is an idea out of an environmentalist's wildest dream, or a petroleum executive's worst nightmare — a car that runs on water.

A small, egg-shaped vehicle with swooping, futuristic lines the HR-X produced by Japan's Mazda Motor Corp., runs on hydrogen, an abun-

dant and extremely clean-burning fuel, which can be extracted from water, among other sources.

The still experimental car is one of the more interesting products on display at the Ecobrasil '92 environmental technology trade fair, a sister event to Rio de Janeiro's Earth Summit.

In most circumstances a hydrogen engine "is the

cleanest engine you can imagine," said Claudius Kaniut, an engineer with Mercedes-Benz AG. The German manufacturer has been studying hydrogen since the 1970's and maintains a test fleet of hydrogen-powered vehicles.

However, the high-cost of extracting hydrogen and the relatively low price of petroleum worldwide means that such vehicles may not be on the road for years, or even

decades, industry experts here said.

"It is an option for the next century," Mr. Kaniut said.

Still, as the earth's growing environmental problems exert pressure on carmakers to slash vehicle emissions, auto firms are looking very seriously at many alternative fuels including hydrogen, which is especially intriguing since its supply is potentially infinite.

مكتبة الصحافة

Anthony Hopkins at the top, at last

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — When you think of a new Hollywood star, a glamorous young profile enters your mind's eye. Not these days, when a 54-year-old turbulent talent named Anthony Hopkins wins the Best Actor Oscar playing the menacing role of a twisted, caged psychiatrist called Hannibal (the Cannibal) Lecter.

Britain's most versatile actor won international recognition for his role in the terror thriller "The Silence of the Lambs." Now the world knows what his British fans have long known in a career that spans 22 years. His work includes two dozen films and TV roles and numerous penetrating characterisations at the National Theatre.

"I love playing monsters," says Mr. Hopkins. "Whether it's someone like Lecter, or Hitler in 'The Bunker' or that tyrannical newspaper proprietor Leroux in 'Pravda,' I understand the isolation of

these characters. Maybe it's because I was an introverted boy who had as lonely a childhood as I did that I can get inside these parts," the actor explained.

For some, Mr. Hopkins is heir to the mantle of an early mentor of his, Sir Laurence Olivier. For others, he's a welcome echo of another great Welsh player, Richard Burton, who was born and lived not far from the bakery in the steel town of Port Talbot where Mr. Hopkins spent his lonely childhood.

"The movies were tremendously important to me as a boy, because I chose to have no friends," he says. "It's difficult to imagine today's friendly, witty and warm Mr. Hopkins as the angry, often self-destructive actor he was 20 years ago. Mr. Hopkins fairly purrs these days with so much struggle behind him. 'I love interviews,' he confides. "A fine chance to talk about myself, non-stop." But he'll occasionally turn like dark remembering the bad old

days. You have to strain out his own self-critical remarks. His Oscar was won against such stiff competition as Warren Beatty, Robert De Niro and Nick Nolte. It marked the third year in a row, after Daniel Day Lewis and Jeremy Irons, that a British actor made room at the top.

Mr. Hopkins has just finished photographing in Francis Ford Coppola's "Dracula." And making his debut now in a Merchant Ivory film "Howard's End," the actor shows another king of menace. He portrays a philistine industrialist who bites, Lecter-like, into a cigar and kills with socially acceptable class prejudice.

Mr. Hopkins was born in 1937. Boyhood problems with his father and grandfather have cast a long shadow. "From them I gathered within me anger, a depth of rage, that would surface later. I lacked ability at school, and the English theatre, with its unfairness to actors and the snobbery of its structure, reminded me of school," the

actor says.

He can look back without anger at his own long march towards inner peace. "The worst time of my life was in the sixties," he says. His first marriage had broken up and, he confesses, "I was on the edge of drinking myself to death." He had a reputation for stormy encounters with stage directors. It looked like depression and bouts of drinking might extinguish his fire by the age of 30.

Today's he'd rather look forward. "I've changed very much and now want to get on with the rest of my life. It is as if I've been carrying a big load around with me, and now, after all this time, the demons are gone."

His first big break in theatre came in 1967 while understudying Olivier as Captain Edgar in Stendhal's "The Red and the Black." The older actor, who missed four performances, later wrote of his understudy: "He walked away with the part of Edgar like a cat with a mouse between his teeth."

For a pivotal 10 years, he left the National Theatre to live in Los Angeles. He made some forgettable films for cinema and TV in that time. In 1985, he returned to the National Theatre as Leroux in "Pravda." "I took the role to prove to myself I still had the nerve to get on stage," he recalls. Although his performances as King Lear, Othello and Marc Antony were strong for critics and audiences, he insists: "I wouldn't consider myself a great classical actor." Classical or not, other roles are well remembered by audiences: the mad ventriloquist in "Magic," the problematic doctor in "The Elephant Man" or even the gentle Pierre in "War and Peace." He also left his mark in the TV film, "The Bunker," as Hitler at the end of his tyranny, and as Bruno Hauptmann, doomed kidnapper of the Lindbergh baby.

After the release of "Dracula," what lies ahead for this prodigious, workaholic player? He has a cameo part in

Richard Attenborough's Chaplin saga, "Charlie," his third role for the director. And he'll portray a priest in Harold Pinter's film version of Kafka's "The Trial." A gifted pianist since childhood, Mr. Hopkins now reveals a yearning to do some writing. With publishers courting him, he's started to rough out notes for his autobiography.

Mr. Hopkins may seem a rather tame figure in "Howard's End" after the strong impact of "The Silence of the Lambs," but watch closely. He brings forth his marvelous technical abilities in this tale about English class conflict in 1907 that makes it tremendously relevant today. He compares this subtle role to "putting together a jigsaw puzzle. And I greatly enjoy the surprise when all the bits fit together," he added.

Now that he has a world reputation, will superstardom alter him? "It hasn't made any difference," he insists. "I feel the same as I always did" — World News Link.



Anthony Hopkins plays pompous Henry Widdowson, the owner of a country home called "Howard's End."

Hard times and how to avoid them, the Youssou N'Dour way

By Nicholas Kotch
Reuter

LOME — Youssou N'Dour loves the French expression "galere," the rough equivalent of "hard time."

When the Senegalese singer talks about the hard times he's had and the ones he's determined to avoid, the word peppers his conversation.

But he worries more about

the travails of other African musicians who get ripped off if they make it to Europe and the United States and ripped off if they stay at home.

At 32 and with 17 years in showbusiness already behind him, N'Dour is an African success story.

After five albums he has the sales and the fans in well-off countries to relax a little, take stock and share a bit of his good fortune.

"What young African musicians like me have to do is ask for the standard things without any hang-ups."

"Before Africans were always treated like the last comers," he says. "I completely reject that. As soon as an African artist arrives in Europe or the United States he just listens to what he's told. He says 'yes, yes, OK boss.'"

"I never accept that. I ask for the right tools to do my

job and if I don't get them I turn round and go home to Senegal."

Unlike the rest of the handful of Africans who have made an international name in music, and then managed to sustain their careers, N'Dour refuses to live in Paris or London or New York.

"I prefer to stay in Africa despite all the hard times and slug it out. Life is good in

Africa even if professionally it's an uphill struggle.

"In Europe things work professionally but life there is like being inside a cupboard. There's no life over there."

So he is based in Dakar, the Senegalese capital, where he started singing.

His mother comes from an illustrious family of "griots," traditional praise-singers, and N'Dour inherited and developed the beautiful sing-

ing voice that he has married to a modern African sound.

For a couple of years he hid his musical ambitions from his father, who foresaw drugs, drink and girls and wanted something better for his son.

But when N'Dour's first recorded song Mba became a local hit he abandoned his studies and has never looked back.

The Association of Sene-

galese Taxi Drivers in Paris was the unlikely provider of his big break. They brought him to the French capital in 1982 for a concert and among the African audience were a few Europeans who liked what they saw and heard.

Then Peter Gabriel, the former frontman with the rock band Genesis and a believer in "world music," met N'Dour and helped launch him. European tours

followed and in 1988 he shared the massive publicity which surrounded the Amnesty International world tour with artists like Sting, Gabriel and Tracy Chapman.

"I was lucky. I met people like Peter Gabriel who respected my ideas. I don't know what world music is really but I know that I feel much stronger today, more ready and confident. I know what I want."

Indian author shocks the pruders, but sells big

By Raju Gopalakrishnan
Reuter

BOMBAY — Her books have crowded Jackie Collins and Judith Krantz off paperback shelves in India's airports and railway stations.

The mix is the same — raunchy tales of the rich and famous — but the setting is not New York, Monaco or Los Angeles, but Bombay. Shobha De is an attractive 40-something former model and gossip columnist, who lives, breathes, disseminates and dissects life in Bombay at its affluent and designer-label peak.

Her heroes and heroines drive BMWs, drink Dom Perignon or freshly squeezed orange juice in silver tumblers, wear Gucci shoes,

Patek-Philippe watches on slim wrists, and jump into bed after disrobing Armani suits and Gossard black lace bras.

They are in total, and to many Indians, shocking contrast to works of other Indian authors who write in English about village or lower middle class life and avoid any hint of titillation.

Ms. De has produced three books in as many years. A fourth is with her publishers, the much-respected Penguin India.

They deal with worlds Ms. De says she knows well — the Bombay film industry known as Bollywood, and the lifestyles of very rich corporate executives who own six-bedroom sea-facing apartments and holiday bungalows on

private islands. "It is a world of fantasy for a lot of us, but then I am only representing what I see around," said Ms. De, whose own lifestyle is the subject of much media gossip.

"I've had a ringside view of this action. It's 100 per cent authentic and if at all, it's a bit watered down."

Ms. De, daughter of a senior government official, became a model at 17, and five years later, the founder-editor of Stardust, India's most widely sold and acerbic film gossip magazine.

After about a decade with Stardust, she successfully launched a magazine called Society, which chronicled the lives and tribulations of those who had made it good in Bombay, India's glitzy com-

mercial capital.

Ms. De is married to a wealthy businessman and lives in a smart apartment in Bombay's most affluent — and sea-facing — neighbourhood with six children, including two from a previous marriage and two from her husband's previous marriage.

"I'm full-time into being a mother," she said in an interview frequently interrupted by her young daughter who wanted the author to join her for lunch. "I only use the time other women spend in playing bridge in writing."

Ms. De, a sharp-featured woman who writes her name with an accent above the 'e', said she welcomed the spate of scathing reviews that greeted her latest book, Sisters, in March.

The Times Of India newspaper called it "sibling rivalry."

"De provides the mandatory steamy sequences at regular and frequent intervals and also takes the interested and uninitiated through a fairly exhaustive list of all major designers and designer-labels, the significant watering holes for the Bombay rich and trendy and the most popular nouvelle cuisine items on the private dinner party circuit," it said.

Wrote another critic: "Sisters" is all about two sisters who spend their Socialite Evenings and Starry Nights (the titles of Ms. De's two earlier books) fornicating with married men and men they are in the process of marrying or unmarrying.

"Though the story is completely unconvincing ... just enjoy," the reviewer said.

Some reviews were so incendiary that one newspaper wrote: "This is a genre of writing totally new to the world of Indian book reviews."

"The De novels are pastiche comedies tailored to the intelligence level of under-sexed bed-bugs. It is the reviews that are really building themselves into an enjoyable body of adult literature, with a terrific flair for action, internal dialogue and verbal pep."

"I take my critics as seriously as they take me," Ms. De said. They are "scimiters and ... trashing my books because it is the latest sport in town."

"Most of the reviews to me are really free advertisements," she said. "Sizzling controversies never hurt sales, as we all know ... I should really be grateful to the critics for generating that kind of steam."

Penguin India is less delighted.

"There is a major amount of hypocrisy," said Chief Editor David Davidar. "She has just upset a lot of people because she has succeeded. She's not a literary novelist but you can't say she is not a novelist."

Ms. De's books have sold 45,000 copies, he said. That's about 20 times more than an average Indian writer in English sells.

Penguin was happy with the decision to publish Ms.

De because all publishers need a couple of bestsellers. Mr. Davidar said.

"There's nothing morally reprehensible in it. We live in the nineties and we have to balance the books, in every sense of the term," he said.

Said Ms. De: "I don't see myself as a porn queen or any of the idiotic labels that have been stuck on me. I think they are sexy books but pornography has such a nasty ring to it. I think they do nothing more than hold a mirror to that section of society I am familiar with."

"I don't think the books would have been accepted if they had been written by some frumpy housewife in Dombivili (a sleepy Bombay suburb). I have a certain kind of authenticity."

Yves Saint Laurent — 30 years of couture and still in fashion

By Antoine Baser

In January 1962, Yves Saint Laurent presented his first collection to an enthusiastic public. In January 1992, thirty years later, the public acclaims his new Spring-Summer 1992 collection with the same enthusiasm. To what does Yves Saint Laurent owe his tremendous success?

PARIS — Yves Saint Laurent is the most secretive and yet the greatest of high fashion designers. He is even the "third most famous person in the world." At any rate, he has been the number one of haute couture for thirty years and one cannot help asking the question: How is it possible to stay in the key position in an area which, by definition, changes continuously?

In 1951, a highly sensitive, totally silent youth in a black suit, looking like a character straight out of a Stendhal novel, thin, pale and terribly precocious, arrived in Paris with fifty drawings under his arm. He went to work for Dior. On the master's death,

in October 1957, he took over from him. He was twenty years old. In six collections he developed the Yves Saint Laurent style: "Above all, the line owes its elegance to simplicity and to the pureness of its construction." At this stage already, he rid fashion of all its artifices, its constricting lines and the notion of the woman as an object, and prepared for the essential, the body and "freeing woman."

In 1962, he set up his own fashion house and signed his own collection "Yves Saint Laurent." It was a triumph. He found the secret of success and everlastingness right from the start. In the wake of the success of his previous

collections, he definitively outmoded the idea of fashion.

It was no longer simply a matter of length, colour, the casual look or elegance, young or old, gay or sad. What counted above all was a way of moving and living. Clothes, including haute couture, were made for women and not the other way round. The creator had to efface himself and give priority to the pleasure a woman would feel in wearing his clothes. "My aim is to give women clothes that do not hamper them," without dictates, restraints or uniforms, but, on the contrary, mobility, comfort and seduction.

Catherine Deneuve, the famous French actress has always been one of YSL's faithful customers. She says: "I would like to be naked beneath his dresses in order to feel the silky satin, with which they are lined, all over my skin. Yves Saint Laurent's fashions are, above all, an extraordinary pleasure a real joy which reveals the love that Yves lavishes on women."

But Yves Saint Laurent

would surely not have chosen the happiness of women to the detriment of his art. He is an artist through and through, but he has made his choice: "When one starts a collection, at the beginning, one has too many ideas and, above all, one does not think so much of the woman. One thinks of satisfying one's needs of creation and of putting oneself forward. But one must beware of going astray."

One has to think of others, one has to think of the women. Then, the most difficult thing is to find the line of a collection. Once it has been found, everything follows smoothly on, and then I can work very quickly."

Having chosen to "free women," for whom he creates modern, "wearable" clothes (loose blouses, sailor-shirts, hooded coats, jersey tunics and safari shirts), YSL subtly introduces art into his works through the mysterious grace of an accessory, through the magic of a hairstyle but, above all, by the sumptuous interplay of a whole range of colours which he combines with extreme boldness.

Yves Saint Laurent is also an artist in the way he pays endless homage to the greatest painters, Picasso, Van Gogh, Bonnard, Mondrian, Leger, Juan Gris and Cocteau. For him, the history of art is a fantastic reserve on which he constantly wants to draw. But there is no art without provocation. It is a permanent revolution and Yves Saint Laurent has made insolence a ritual. He has dared everything in his wish to anticipate the desires of women: trousers and dinner jackets, the use of black as a true colour, bermuda shorts, transparency and bare breasts.

He has, moreover, had some emulators and given rise to a number of vocations. But it is difficult to imitate this creator who is a "classical revolutionary," always in the forefront of modernity. His emulators have not always been inspired: "At the moment, I see some frightful things. A suspender-belt under a nightdress. For me that is the epitome of horror." It is true that certain attempts at gratuitous style are a far cry from YSL, the

"King" as he is known in America.

Indeed, Yves Saint Laurent's sixtieth collection for his 30th anniversary (1962-92) was a dazzling display which once more gained the enthusiasm of the public with its excitement. In this latest collection, Yves Saint Laurent appears as his usual self: very contemporary, neither eccentric nor ostentatious, using a minimum of means for a maximum of effect and a combination of colours that nobody but he would dare: Pink, violet and turquoise, for example, for that "long, evening outfit with its bolero and its skirt which, following the rule, do not hamper the body."

As Catherine Deneuve puts it so well: "Saint Laurent is not made to impress but to restrain." And she adds what could be his real secret: "In spite of his talent and his success, he has managed to maintain an everlasting newness which makes him an eternally young man," a young man on whom time seems to have no hold — L'Actualite En France.



Yves Saint Laurent, accompanied by actress Catherine Deneuve, celebrates his 30th anniversary in haute couture.

Homoeopathy gains increasing acceptance

Two years ago a poll of general practitioners in north and south Germany revealed that only one doctor in four still used nothing but conventional forms of treatment. The rest already made use of homoeopathic methods. At Kiel University lectures in homoeopathic medicine were held even before new medical regulations gave training medical students in homoeopathy and naturopathy the go-ahead. Schleswig-Holstein's first homoeopathic gynaecologist has set up in practice, and even vets are using the 200-year-old approach that more or less well-informed critics have always suspected of being something of a confidence trick. Christian Trutschel takes a closer look at the approach to treating the sick put forward by Meissen doctor Samuel Hahnemann in 1796 after six years of experiments on himself, his wife and their 11 children.

THE FIRST point to make is that in Germany practising homoeopaths are fully qualified medical practitioners. They have all been to medical college, studied, passed and attended further training courses held by the Central Association of Homoeopathic Medicine.

There are fundamental differences between conventional and homoeopathic medicine even though their aim may be the same: to heal the sick.

The first principle of homoeopathy is to see the patient as a whole rather than in terms of the parts that are

acutely or chronically sick. The key question must be: How is that the patient is unable to cope with his complaint by himself?

Illness was defined by Meissen-born doctor, pharmacist and chemist Samuel Hahnemann as an indisposition of the life force. Dr. Hahnemann, homoeopathy's founding father, first outlined his principles in 1796.

The second principle is *similia similibus curentur*, or like things are cured by the same.

This principle, the application of which involves testing homoeopathic drugs on healthy people, continues to be the quintessence of the homoeopathic approach to health.

It is basically simple. A healthy person tries out small doses of a well-known natural drug and keeps careful records of their effect on him.

Dr. Hahnemann himself first tested cinchona bark in

1790, knowing that it could cure malaria. Without being acutely ill himself he took it and discovered he was developing the classic symptoms of the disease.

He came to suspect that a drug which triggered the symptoms of a disease in a healthy person might be able to eliminate the disease in a sick one. That was when homoeopathy began to see the light of day.

But before he made his findings public he tested and checked his ideas on himself, his wife and their 11 children for six long years.

Thousands of drug tests followed. Their findings were collected and are available as reference works. Every practising homoeopath adds his own findings, compiling a constantly evolving, living compendium.

He went on to develop a pharmaceutical procedure whereby extracts of animal, vegetable and mineral products and products of illness,

such as smears taken from gonorrhoea patients, are diluted in a mixture of between 30 and 45 per cent of alcohol, water or milk sugar.

They were, and still are, then diluted time and again to what are called potencies, in each case being mixed by being shaken; that was a point to which Dr. Hahnemann attached great importance, as otherwise their curative powers would be mysteriously forfeited.

Not the third principle (because it is less a principle than practical experience) is that the more heavily diluted a drug is, the more effective it tends to be.

In the entire homoeopathic canon there is no tenet that runs more against the grain of conventional medical teachings than this, and it is the reason why homoeopathy is still not fully accepted at universities.

How can one then account for the fact that a homoeopathic drug in which

the active substance has been diluted to one millionth of the total weight or volume is more effective than a medicine in which the active ingredient is equal to one per cent of the whole?

How, indeed, can one account for the fact that from a certain stage of dilution not a single molecule of the basic substance remains yet the homoeopathic potency still undeniably has a curative effect?

The third principle is that the complaint is cured from the inside out, with homoeopathic doctors working on the basis of a hierarchy of symptoms.

At the lowest level there are local symptoms such as a cold, a sore, a wart, an inflammation. Then come general symptoms, such as the patient saying: "I feel weak" or "I feel too hot."

Still further up the scale come moods, such as sorrow, pleasure, worry, anger, depression in illness and

euphoria when cured.

The top level consists of mental symptoms, such as impaired powers of concentration and the like.

Three categories of response show the homoeopathic practitioner whether his treatment has been a success and the patient has been cured.

The first is that the symptoms which respond must be the ones that the drug administered was found to trigger in testing.

The second is that sleep (seen as corresponding to rest), stool, sweating (excretion) and food and drink intake must have returned to normal.

Third, simply and naturally, a sense of harmony and well-being must return, accompanied by an increase in energy.

For decades front-line skirmishes characterised the tenor of relations between conventional and homoeopathic medicine, but a more moderate note is now

sounded. "In my view the confrontation of the past will give way to a more flexible transition," says Professor Hans-Dietrich Bruhn of Kiel, an experienced conventional specialist who lectures on physiotherapy and dietetics.

Homoeopathic drugs have fewer side-effects than conventional ones, he says, and they aren't habit-forming. Homoeopathy often works where conventional medical treatment is at its wits' end.

Dr. Friedrich Graf from Ploen, who lectures on homoeopathy in gynaecology to midwives at Kiel University Hospital, even feels that "there couldn't be a better therapeutic tool for the midwife to use than homoeopathy."

But no-one denies that homoeopathy comes up against its limits when it is a matter of treating serious or acute complaints. Dr. Hahnemann had no special treatment for cardiac arrest or a diabetic coma — Kiel's Nachrichten.

New, faster TB diagnosis could lead to speedy treatment

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (Agencies) — Researchers say they have developed a method that cuts the diagnosis time of tuberculosis from at least two weeks to less than two days.

"When you have the ability to make a rapid diagnosis, then you can start the appropriate drug treatment and also that person will not spread the disease," said Kathleen D. Eisenach, principal researcher on the project at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

She said the method —

which involves analysing the genetic material commonly found in tuberculosis cells — should let laboratories diagnose TB conclusively in about 36 hours rather than the two to four weeks it takes now, saving many patients lives.

Ms. Eisenach, an assistant professor in the school's Pathology Department, said the method should be on the market in a year or two.

"Anything that is going to let us make a diagnosis quickly and accurately is a very important breakthrough," said Lee B. Reich-

man, president of the New York-based American Lung Association.

The new method uses a process called polymerase chain reaction, a way of amplifying copies of specific chromosome parts in TB cells' DNA — the material containing genetic information.

Researchers developed a way to single out a specific segment of DNA common to TB, and multiply it until about 1 million copies are produced, making it easily identifiable, said Don Cave, another researcher.

The current method — of

finding out if TB organisms are present requires culturing saliva samples for two to four weeks.

Tuberculosis, a lung disease, is spread through the air. It steadily declined in the United States after the development of antibiotics, but began a deadly resurgence in the mid-1980s.

Reasons include an increase in poor and homeless people who are more susceptible and the rise of AIDS, which destroys the immune system and leaves victims vulnerable to TB infection.

Medical researchers studying an outbreak of tuberculosis at a New York City Hospital have discovered that drug-resistant tuberculosis is easily spread to patients whose immune systems are crippled by AIDS.

The researchers say their findings reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, show that doctors must be alert to the danger to AIDS patients and strictly follow rules hospitals are supposed to have to prevent TB

from spreading.

The mini-epidemic at Roosevelt Hospital was fostered, at least in part, by design problems in rooms where the ventilation was supposed to prevent tuberculosis bacteria from escaping to other parts of the hospital. Only one of 16 ventilation systems worked properly.

Tuberculosis, which eats away at the lungs and is spread on tiny water droplets, was once considered a resolved problem in the Un-

ited States.

But the evolution of drug-resistant strains, combined with the dramatic spread in acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) whose sufferers are especially vulnerable to TB, have made tuberculosis a major U.S. public health concern once again.

The authors of the new study, led by Dr. Brian R. Edlin of the National Centre for Infectious Diseases in Atlanta, said AIDS patients were the chief victims in a

dramatic increase in the number of TB cases at the hospital.

The number of drug-resistant cases of TB was as high as 30 per cent by 1990, they said.

The researchers discovered that AIDS patients in hospital on the same ward as a person with drug-resistant TB was 52 times more likely to develop drug-resistant TB themselves and the closer they were to the TB patient, the greater the risk.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

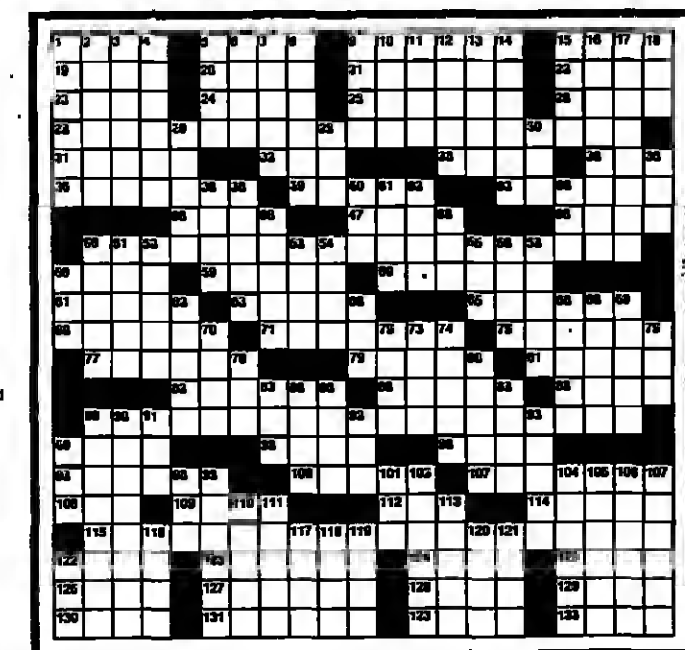
WORDS FROM THE WISE
By Wilson McBeath

- ACROSS
- 1 Went forty-eight
 - 2 Skirt or apron
 - 3 Type types
 - 4 Across Evans
 - 5 Narrative
 - 6 Hibernia
 - 7 Confine
 - 8 Nave from the
 - 9 Carpenters
 - 10 Equips for
 - 11 comb
 - 12 Badgers
 - 13 Remains
 - 14 Author Farber
 - 15 Start of a proverb
 - 16 Iron, pref.
 - 17 Mac — lung
 - 18 Utah's state flower
- DOWN
- 1 Personnel groups
 - 2 Sliding ring on a mast
 - 3 New York city
 - 4 Abandon
 - 5 Repair
 - 6 Laves and
 - 7 Garb
 - 8 An unpleasant
 - 9 Demand
 - 10 emphatically
 - 11 Ancient Taelon
 - 12 Commedia dell'
 - 13 Shining groups
 - 14 Men — of "The
 - 15 Watsons"
 - 16 A hammer
 - 17 Clinging
 - 18 Clinging
 - 19 Clinging
 - 20 Clinging

Diagramless 19 x 19, By Harold B. Counts

- ACROSS
- 1 Ending for gang or mob
 - 2 War god
 - 3 Fish-eating birds
 - 4 Maniac
 - 5 Keep an eye on
 - 6 Miss, headwear
 - 7 Maltreated
 - 8 Clinging
 - 9 Race-track character
- DOWN
- 1 Make shreds
 - 2 Gulf hazard
 - 3 Begged
 - 4 Tape
 - 5 Ready for war
 - 6 Single McNiro
 - 7 Audience
 - 8 Printer's direction
 - 9 Portion
 - 10 Rule of yore

- DOWN
- 1 Horn of hat
 - 2 Like a venetian blind
 - 3 Stick off
 - 4 Clock or ancient Gr
 - 5 Whodunnit
 - 6 Soviet aid
 - 7 Dashed off
 - 8 Quotation from
 - 9 Quotation from
 - 10 Quotation from
 - 11 Quotation from
 - 12 Quotation from
 - 13 Quotation from
 - 14 Quotation from
 - 15 Quotation from
 - 16 Quotation from
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 - 19 Quotation from

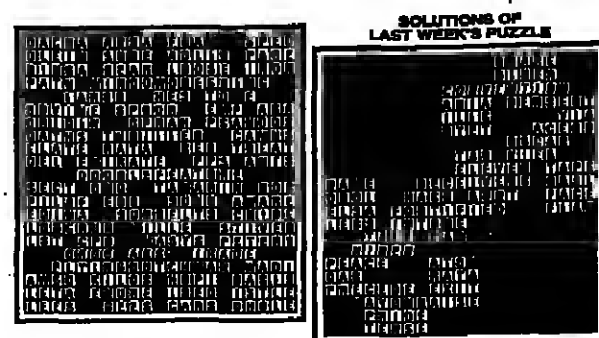


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Diet is plain which can work for people who are thick and tired of it.
2. Red-headed villain's wife made him go on the ice water wagon after Christmas.
3. Lax lawyer lacks tax facts, yet extracts some healthy fees from wealthy marks.
4. Big mauler: Elegant, glamorous financier found to be member of stunt act.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YLT X AKWWLC QLTCEW KDN FJCYDL
FTATTV CJIV TCKVY QBDN HJCVL
2. NOLI FTUPUGO DUMP GWYLLDE NLIP
SWP SM STYLT LZLTFSYK
XWPSAXPUXDDK FLEXAL WFLXTXPOL
XIY WILDLEXPLY.
3. OW O KRLK MTCW. IREBZRZS,
QSMRFQTMOR CWKILLES PON
ZSBWJOERN FQTIKMS KOQPTEN.
4. IE MUCHLY MUCHLY MUCHRYT YH PMY
PERITM MUCELM.



Vasectomy seen as possible way to prevent HIV spread

WASHINGTON (R) — A vasectomy shows promise as a new method to control the spread of AIDS by stopping transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) found in the semen of infected men, researchers have reported.

They reported to a meeting of the American Urological Association that their study might yield important information about how acquired immune deficiency

syndrome (AIDS) is spread.

"The findings may have profound implications about strategies to limit sexual transmission of HIV," they said in a brief report.

Four vasectomized men known to be infected with HIV provided semen samples. Scientists were unable to grow the virus from this in contrast to their success in growing HIV from the semen of infected men who had not had vasectomies.

A vasectomy is minor surgery that cuts the ducts that carry the sperm from the testes to seminal vesicles.

The man continues to ejaculate as usual but the semen no longer carries sperm. The sterilisation is usually done as a method of birth control but in rare cases can reverse itself.

Researcher Dr. John Krieger of the University of Seattle cautioned this was an early study on a small number of men and it has not been

proven conclusively that semen of vasectomized men is free of the virus that causes AIDS.

He said in an interview, "It is very important this be studied scientifically and no one should jump to conclusions."

Vasectomy should not be used to replace condoms and other safe sex practices, he said. "I would very much not want people to start relying on something that is not proven."

Gene analysis may help guide therapy for bladder cancer — studies

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida — Bladder cancers may be more aggressive if they lose a gene that acts as a brake, suggesting that a genetic test may be able to distinguish patients who need more powerful therapy, a researcher said.

A patient diagnosed with early bladder cancer might get chemotherapy in addition to surgery, for example, said Dr. William Benedict, pro-

fessor of biotechnology at the Baylor College of Medicine.

Bladder cancer is expected to strike 51,600 Americans this year and cause 9,500 deaths.

The gene is called the RB gene because it was first identified in a relatively rare cancer called Retinoblastoma. Since then it has been shown to have a role in more common cancers, including those of the lung, breast, prostate and bladder.

The RB gene is an anti-oncogene, which means that

when it is missing or not functioning, it allows cancer to appear.

The work suggests its absence also can let an established cancer proceed more quickly, Benedict said at a recent science writers seminar sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

This loss is not inherited from a parent in bladder cancer, but rather occurs spontaneously as the tumor cells divide early in the cancer's life, he said. Eventually, cells without the gene overwhelm

the population of cancerous cells in a tumour, he said.

One study of 43 patients with relatively advanced bladder cancer found that 37 per cent of them had tumours that lacked the RB gene. That loss rate is much higher than the rate found for early-stage bladder cancer, which is less than 10 per cent, Dr. Benedict said.

The fact that the gene loss is more common in more aggressive tumours suggests it may encourage the cancers to progress, he said.

'Morning sickness protects embryo'

BERKELEY, California (R) — Morning sickness is not just an accidental by-product of pregnancy, but the body's way of protecting the embryo from toxic food, according to a new book.

University of California biologist Margie Profet, writing in a book to be published soon, says morning sickness deters women from eating foods that might cause birth defects or aborted pregnancies.

"If you didn't have it you could be eating too many natural toxins in food and aborting your embryos," said Mr. Profet, author of a chapter on the subject in "The Adapted Mind" from Oxford University Press.

As proof of her conclusion, Ms. Profet points out that the first trimester of pregnancy, when morning sickness usually occurs, is also when the embryo is most vulnerable. Morning sickness is like an alarm system warning women

not to eat foods that could damage the embryo, Ms. Profet said. These include spices, pungent vegetables such as Brussels sprouts, and fried foods.

"The embryo is undergoing all its organ formation in the first trimester," she told Reuters in a telephone interview. "So it's extremely vulnerable to any agent that causes birth defects. Every major birth defect takes place during the first trimester."

Ms. Profet said her findings could revolutionise the way the world looks at morning sickness, which has previously been perceived as an unavoidable side effect of pregnancy.

Attempts to treat morning sickness with drugs have had tragic consequences. Many women treated for morning sickness with thalidomide in the late 1950s and early 1960s had babies born with missing or deformed limbs.

Kasparov rests after five Olympiad wins

MANILA (Agencies) — Champion Garry Kasparov took a rest from the World Chess Olympiad Wednesday after scoring five straight victories and leading Russia to a commanding lead in the 112-nation competition.

Kasparov was to have played Zura Abzaidashvili in the ninth round match between Russia and Georgia but the champion ceded his place to teammate, saying it would not feel good playing the Georgian grandmaster, who is one of his seconds in world title matches.

Russia leads the Olympiad with 25.5 points after eight rounds of the 14-round competition. Georgia is tied for second place at 21 points with Armenia and the Netherlands.

"It would not be convenient to play against one of my seconds," Kasparov told reporters, referring to Abzaidashvili, who acted as one of his analysts in his three title matches with fellow Russian Anatoly Karpov.

"Some of my seconds are play-

ing in teams from the former Soviet Union. We have several very strong teams in this Olympiad," Kasparov said.

Kasparov's place at the first board was taken by Sergey Dolmatov.

At the resumption of adjourned eighth round games, Irina Chelushkina defeated the German Brigitte Burchardt on the second board to give Ukraine at 2.5-0.5 victory over Germany in the women's competition.

Ukraine leads the women's division with 18.5 points while China and Georgia are tied for second at 17 points.

"We won against Germany but it was not easy," said Ukraine's first board player Alisa Galiamova-Ivanchuk.

"Chelushkina realized her advantage and we are now 1.5 points in front of our two most dangerous opponents. It seems that everything is clear and the three Olympic medals this time will be won by Ukraine, China and Georgia," she said.

Russia Tuesday defeated third-seeded Ukraine 3-1 to pull away from the 102-team field in the eighth round of the Chess Olympiad.

Kasparov, 29, trounced Ukraine's top board player and World No. 3 ranked Vassily Ivanchuk in 45 moves of an English opening to lead Russia's offensive.

Sergei Dolmatov on board three followed up on Kasparov's victory with a 52-move whipping of Oleg Romanishin in a Scotch game.

Russia's board two player Alexander Khalifman drew with Ukraine's Aleksandr Beliavsky in 22 moves of a semi-Slav and board four player Alexei Dreiev halved the point with counterpart Igor Novikov in 26 moves of a Dutch.

Netherlands drew with Uzbekistan by drawing on two boards and winning a game each. But Uzbekistan was tied in third place with Norway because of a lower score in the previous rounds.

Navratilova suffers shock early defeat at Eastbourne

EASTBOURNE, England (R) — Martina Navratilova, long the undisputed queen of Eastbourne, suffered a shock second-round defeat at the Wimbledon warm-up tournament.

Top seed Navratilova, who has won the Eastbourne tournament 11 times — including nine times in the last 10 years — went out to unheralded fellow American Linda Harvey-Wild, ranked 64th in the world, 6-3 6-3.

It was the 35-year-old Navratilova's first loss in 11 years to a player outside the top 50, and bodes ill for her attempt on another Wimbledon title next week.

"It doesn't help my preparations, that's for sure but I wouldn't say my confidence is shattered," she said. "I gave it everything I had and I've nothing to be ashamed about."

The former world number one has won a record nine Wimbledon singles titles but last year failed to get beyond the quarterfinals in her worst showing since 1977.



Martina Navratilova

Navratilova, who has been playing on Eastbourne's grass courts since 1974 and regards the south-coast town almost as a second home, has complained this week of being advised by doctors to cut down on her punishing training routine.

A gusty wind also played its part in her downfall Tuesday but Navratilova refused to lay the blame entirely on the weather.

"It just wasn't ready to play my best tennis in the second round," said Navratilova, who is back in action this week of more than two months. "The wind is a great equalizer and doesn't help the

better players but she handled it better than I did. I became pretty tentative with my shots while she was going for hers."

Navratilova last lost to a player outside the top 50 at the 1981 Virginia Slims of California when she was beaten in the first round by German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch.

Though she broke Harvey-Wild, 14 years her junior, as she served for the match at 5-4 in the second set and went on to win the tiebreak 7-4, the defending champion soon found herself 0-4 down in the deciding set.

"I knew I'd come close and I didn't want to give up. I just told myself to keep fighting, and if she played good tennis there was nothing I could do about it," said Harvey-Wild, who made the third round at Wimbledon last year.

Second seed Mary Joe Fernandez was offered a spirited challenge by Sandrine Testud of France before earning a 7-6 6-4 victory and a third-round place.

Fernandez's fellow American Ros Fairbank-Nieffler defeated eighth-seeded Kimiko Date of Japan 7-6 6-1, giving up just one point in the last three games.

Courier and Seles have tough road to first Wimbledon titles

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Jim Courier and Monica Seles, both halfway to the Grand Slam, face potentially tough roads to their first Wimbledon titles.

The No. 1 seeds have firmly established themselves as the world's top players with victories this year at the Australian Open and French Open. But they have yet to prove themselves on the grass at Wimbledon.

Tuesday's draw left both, especially Courier, with a tricky course to reach the finals. The tournament begins next Monday.

Courier's first-round opponent is Marcus Zieck, a 6-foot-5 German whose huge serve could pose problems on grass. But Zieck's status became uncertain when he suffered an injury Tuesday during a match at a Wimbledon warm-up tournament in Manchester.

ATP Tour trainer Bill Norris said Zieck came down hard on his left foot and strained his Achilles tendon. He described Zieck's condition as day-by-day.

Looming as a potential third-round opponent for Courier is another German, Davis Cup veteran Carl Uwe Steeb.

In the fourth round, Courier could face either 16th-seeded David Wheaton, John McEnroe or Pat Cash.

The most intriguing early-round match could be a second-rounder between McEnroe and Cash, two former Wimbledon champions who are both near the end of their careers but are always dangerous on grass. They also are good friends who like to play rock guitar together.

First, McEnroe will have to get past Luiz Mattar of Brazil. Cash, a wild-card entry, has a tougher first-round assignment in Jacco Eltingh of the Netherlands, who reached the round of 16 at Wimbledon last year.

Should Courier advance to the quarterfinals, his potential opponents include seventh-seeded Michael Chang, whose weakest surface is grass, and French all-court players Guy Forget and Henri Leconte.

The other half of Courier's draw is headed by fourth-seeded Boris Becker, a three-time Wimbledon champion. Others in that group include No. 6 Petr Korda, No. 12 Andre Agassi, No. 14 Wayne Ferreira and 39-year-old Jimmy Connors.

Becker has been struggling lately and even fired his coach, Tomas Smid, earlier this week. He has a potentially troublesome start against Italy's Omar Camporese, who stretched him to the limit in the Australian Open in 1991 before losing 14-12 in the fifth set.

Agassi opens against Andrei Chesnokov of Russia. In the round of 16, he could meet Korda, a former Wimbledon Open champion.

Connors, who will be playing his 20th Wimbledon, faces Luis Herrera of Mexico in the first round.

Another American, Aaron Krickstein, pulled out of Wimbledon Tuesday, citing an injury.

In the other half of the draw, second-seeded Stefan Edberg has an apparently easier path than Courier. The two-time Wimbledon champion starts against Andre Gomec, who won the French Open on clay in 1990 but has had little success anywhere else since.

Edberg has relatively clear sailing to the quarters, where he is seeded to face No. 8 Goran Ivanisevic, should he get past Ivan Lendl in the fourth round.

Defending champion Michael Stich, the No. 3 seed who opens against Stefano Pescosolido of Italy, is slated to meet No. 5 Pete

Sampras in another quarterfinal. Should the seedings hold, the four men's quarterfinal matchups would be: Courier vs. Chang, Becker vs. Korda, Stich vs. Sampras and Edberg vs. Ivanisevic. The projected semifinals are Courier-Becker and Edberg-Sampras.

The women's field is headed by Seles, who has won the last five Grand Slam tournaments to which she competed. She withdrew from Wimbledon at the last minute last year with what she later described as shin splints and a stress fracture.

Seles first plays Jenny Byrne of Australia, a grass-court specialist who lost in the finals of a Wimbledon warm-up in Birmingham last week.

"Obviously it's not Monica's favorite surface and it is mine," Byrne said. "I'm playing well and I've had a lot of matches on grass. Things have been going my way lately, so maybe I can give her a scare."

Seles' potential quarterfinal opponent is seventh-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez, with No. 4 Martina Navratilova and No. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario expected to reach the other quarterfinal in her half of the draw.

The 35-year-old Navratilova, winner of a record nine Wimbledon singles titles, has an interesting first-round matchup against 17-year-old Magdalena Maleeva.

"I've played her once in Tokyo and beat her," Navratilova said. "It's not the kind of first round you would want, but it's on grass."

The other half of the women's draw features No. 2 Steffi Graf, a three-time champion, and No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini. Both have easy starts. Graf against Nicole Pietrangeli of France and Sabatini against Christelle Fauche of Switzerland.

Swedish police out in force for England fans

STOCKHOLM (R) — Police were out in force in Stockholm Wednesday, ready to tackle thousands of English soccer fans in town for England's crucial European Championship match against Sweden.

While 1,600 police, all equipped with full riot gear, deployed in the city center and around the Rasunda Stadium, Swedish officials reacted angrily to British criticism of their handling of fans and a beer tent scheme for supporters.

Police said there was little trouble overnight following four evenings of violence. There were no problems at the other three venue cities, Malmö, Gothenburg and Norrköping.

"The whole world can see now that it is only Englishmen who are trying to sabotage the soccer party through their abominable behavior," Lars-Ake Lagrell, chairman of the Swedish Football Association, told the daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JUNE 19, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Personal desires put into motion and for one day keep home problems from interfering with your intimate longings.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Keep your own problems to yourself now for if you tell them to one outside you find it can bring some unpleasant consequences that can upset you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't allow a temptation from afar to take you away from whatever activities you are concentrating upon or much trouble can follow for you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can have a pleasant time at some recreation you like if you are careful to keep expenses down and are with chosen companions who have poise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take some time out to consider the positions of a family member and an outsider who are not getting along at all well and don't let yourself get involved.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have much to do in any way of communicating with others and to do so it is necessary you arrange tasks so that you have time to do so.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out to look into your present practical position and don't be so interested in romance that you do not use good common sense.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take time to get your own

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JUNE 18, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: State to others exactly what is on your mind and a mutual understanding for superior to what you've had in the past will be the result. New associates start upends in your affairs.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A day when you would be wise to do whatever your activities are in a conscientious and meticulous fashion, do not expect much from fellow associates.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need to make sure you do not expect a close companion to go along with an entertainment matter you have counted upon and enjoy a personal hobby.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Put yourself out to do something special for your family that you do not especially desire to do but that will help the harmony at your dwelling.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think more carefully today before you make a critical comment and the same applies in any letters or other writings or you alienate one of importance.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what you can do to avoid some problems that can put you behind the eight ball financially and take time to improve some property needs.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Do go after what you want and sidestep the tendency to feel that you are being put upon by circumstances that are beyond your present control.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Whatever makes you feel you are being restricted, should be looked directly at and solved in a sensible fashion without postponing any longer.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An analytical friend can give you some excellent suggestions how best to handle a situation that is a puzzle to you so listen and follow.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make a point to do whatever outside promises you have made and take no chances whatever where your reputation is concerned or criticism slows.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out now to show you intend to understand new ways of doing things where your own growth and development are concerned.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take no chances where some obligations are concerned but attend to them in such a manner that business persons will have added respect for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well the various outside associates you want to be a part of your orbit of influence in the future and think up ways to please them.

THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SESC _ _ _ _

ENSIO _ _ _ _

TARGEY _ _ _ _

BEDFAL _ _ _ _

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

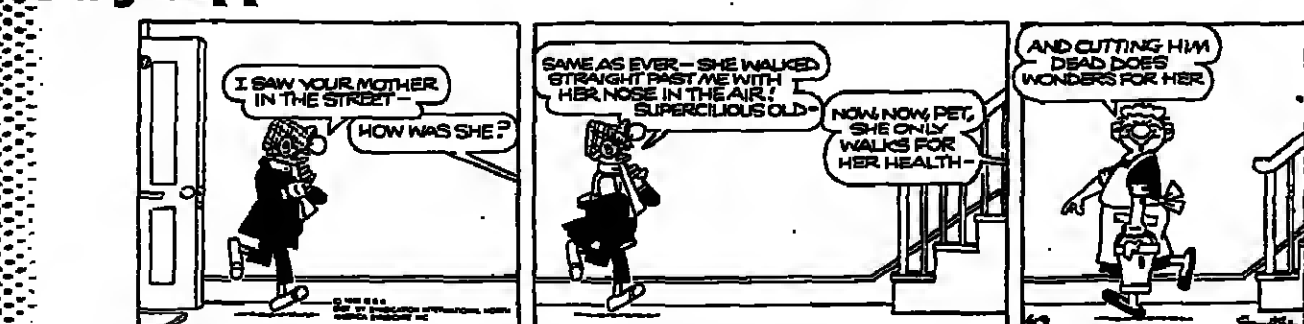
ANSWER: THE _ _ _ _ _ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAIN APPLY SAVORY PASTRY
Answer: "Making money" is easy, but the problem is this—TRYING TO PASS IT

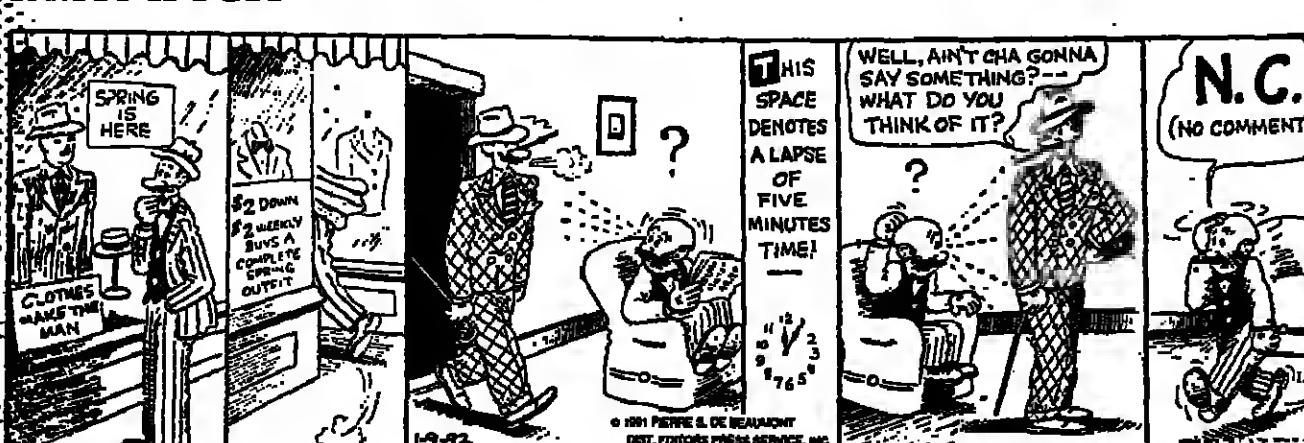
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH ©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠A974 ♠V6 ♠AQJ87 ♠AK7 The bidding has proceeded: South East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ? What do you bid now? A.—No raise in spades fully expresses the value of your hand and even a jump to four spades. Tell partner of your powerhouse and ambitions for slam by jump-shifting to three clubs, then supporting spades vigorously at your next turn.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K78 ♠QK632 ♠QJ6 ♠52 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ? What do you bid now? A.—Two hearts now would show a weakish hand with a six-card heart suit, so that is out. So is a jump to three hearts, which also promises at least six hearts and is invitational or forcing, depending on your methods. Correct is an invitational raise to two no trump, describing a balanced hand of 11-12 points.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠KJ4 ♠KQ82 ♠AQ6 ♠762 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass ? What action do you take? A.—This is simply a matter of arithmetic, and the answer is the same whether your range for the jump to two no trump is 18-19 or 19-20. The combined hands have enough for a small slam, but not enough for a grand, so jump to six no trump.

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K945 ♠85 ♠9 ♠97542 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 3 ♠ The action do you take? A.—Partner has shown a weak hand and your holding, too, is devoid of defensive capability, so it looks as if the opponents can make a slam in a red suit. To muddy the waters, we would raise gently to four spades, intending to pass if the opponents are content to go no higher than the five-level, but to sacrifice should they bid any slam, including a grand!

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠Q765 ♠K1083 ♠83 ♠862 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass ? What action do you take? A.—Despite the fact you have announced a hand of some 6-9 points, partner is inviting you to game. With a ruffing value in diamonds and four trumps, it is tempting to bid four hearts, but be realistic. This holding is a minimum, so correct to three hearts to advise partner you prefer a suit contract to no trump and are not strong enough to accept the game try.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠K982 ♠A107 ♠KQ83 ♠J5 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ? What do you bid now? A.—You have the equivalent of an opening bid facing an opener, and a balanced hand. You want to be in game, and the obvious one is three no trump, so bid it. Don't make the mistake of bidding only two no trump. That's not forcing and partner might pass.

THE Daily Crossword by Glenan Petgrave

ACROSS

1 Crops

5 Piles of cultivated land

9 Moroccan city

14 Variable star

15 — hand (strong control)

16 Surname

17 Young girl

18 Passport's kin

20 Unwanted creature

22 Lively dance

25 Underused

26 Behind schedule

28 Bibliophile

29 Throughout

30 Boston, e.g.

32 Cutting device

33 Bowler

34 Bouquet

36 Heavenly food?

40 Employee of a kind

42 Is privy to

44 Bring up

45 Refine metal

47 Sea or land area

49 Curved line

50 Long, long time

52 Rider

54 British hair

58 Entrep

59 Bird: pret.

60 Poetry type

62 Souk's cousin

66 Laughable hero

69 Opera song

70 Cloth stainer

71 Light color

72 Bellows

73 Indian state

74 Revue part

75 Get a load of

DOWN

1 Aardvark's food

2 Shelley, e.g.

3 Always

4 In a logical way

5 Symbol

6 Ship up

7 Active one

8 Make a face

9 Make a desert

10 Ms Gardner

11 Surname

12 Syria

13 Tryouts

15 Desideratum

21 Socks

25 Unlapp

27 Beyond one's means

28 Spiteful women

29 The same

30 Large book

31 An Arden

33 Mark

37 Close in on

39 Drug smuggler's enemy

38 Spin

41 Entrust

43 Voice one's opinion

46 Phonograph

48 Buffalo's canal

51 Small drinks

53 Ceremonial structures

54 Underworld

55 Actor Maurice

56 Golf course

57 Memoranda

61 Fed up

63 Catch

64 Transport for a big wheel

65 Bridge apt

67 Bowdler

68 Denial

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 16/6/92	TOKYO CLOSE 17/6/92
Sterling Pound	1.8649	1.8615
Deutsche Mark	1.5655	1.5665
Swiss Franc	1.4050	1.4078
French Franc	5.2655	5.2778
Japanese Yen	126.45	126.60
European Currency Unit	1.5105	1.5070

* For 30/30

** European Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.87	4.00	4.37
Sterling Pound	9.95	9.95	9.87	9.37
Deutsche Mark	9.56	9.56	9.56	9.50
Swiss Franc	9.18	9.12	8.95	8.75
French Franc	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.56	4.46	4.46
European Currency Unit	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50

* Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. \$100,000 or equivalent.

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IASC board members discussing technical issues

Amman hosts meetings of world accountants

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) board has been holding meetings since Monday. The meetings, which will end Thursday, have discussed certain technical issues. The board meetings were never held in any Arab capital before. The business of IASC is conducted by a board which comprises representatives of accounting bodies in 13 countries and up to four other organizations with an interest in financial reporting. Currently the board includes representatives of accountancy bodies from Australia, Korea, Canada, Netherlands, France, Germany, South Africa, Italy, Britain, Japan, the United States and the Nordic Federation of Public Accountants in addition to Jordan.

Jordan, through the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA), has been a board member since 1988. A reception was held at the Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan Tuesday and a dinner was held Wednesday. The attendance included ASCA board members and Jordan Association Certified Public Accountants (JACPA) board members in addition to IASC board members. Mr. Arthur Wyatt the Chairman of the board and the representative of the USA and Mr. Fouad Alseddin the representative of Jordan delivered speeches at Wednesday's dinner.

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN KINLEY BANK	3,850	5,435	1,920	1,990
UNION BANK FOR SAVINGS & INVESTMENT	3,000	4,240	2,120	2,120
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	7,850	9,537	1,230	1,200
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	6,900	7,738	1,120	1,110
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	15,234	61,976	2,200	2,180
ROYAL KINLEY INVESTMENT/OLD	6,650	24,890	2,860	2,880
BANK OF JORDAN	35	95	16,040	16,040
AMMAN BANK	540	63,720	118,000	118,000
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	722	7,723	2,400	2,400
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	800	1,221	2,450	2,450
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,000	1,440	1,440	1,440
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	8,782	11,369	1,280	1,300
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,000	3,150	2,180	2,180
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,150	3,015	4,570	4,530
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,726	12,972	1,350	1,300
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	2,750	9,607	2,560	2,500
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	400	1,320	6,300	5,300
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	53,450	74,795	1,420	1,400
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	12,350	12,332	1,020	1,000
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	13,250	12,260	0,930	0,920
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	71,250	33,650	0,750	0,740
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	5,000	6,200	1,250	1,250
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,350	1,786	1,560	1,550
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	6,450	16,133	2,540	2,500
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	26,850	197,700	7,800	7,600
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	52,348	526,831	10,420	10,300
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	12,432	71,496	1,750	1,750
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,450	30,565	21,300	30,000
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	61,800	235,947	4,620	4,590
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	13,300	98,618	6,500	5,460
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	6,700	22,676	2,590	2,970
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	3,500	7,700	6,400	6,400
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	3,650	16,170	4,100	4,200
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	1,750	1,363	0,790	0,790
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	100	260	2,600	2,600
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	328	1,333	4,100	4,300
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	44,124	145,267	2,320	2,270
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	25,950	16,779	0,640	0,620
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	200	820	4,100	4,100
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	400	6,400	14,000	14,000
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	8,900	28,147	3,950	3,950
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	3,300	23,565	4,050	4,050
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	2,200	7,036	3,200	3,100
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	3,000	6,250	2,750	2,700
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	48,000	365,104	7,640	7,600
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	23,020	34,890	2,710	3,090
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	28,374	38,284	1,350	1,350
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	36,250	21,333	0,620	0,500
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	26,250	146,724	6,300	5,250
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	64,000	146,040	2,260	2,250
JORDAN TRADING COMPANY	3,648	32,049	6,810	8,700
GRAND TOTAL	726,749	2,640,467		

Egypt drags its feet to reform public sector

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has stuck to the letter of an economic reform schedule but may be wasting a golden opportunity to carry out the reforms that really matter, Western donors and economists said Wednesday.

As the government prepares to put two controversial and long-delayed laws to parliament this week, diplomats said the International Monetary Fund and World Bank (IMF) had no technical grounds to query the reform programme they agreed with Egypt last year.

In the legalistic sense, they're still in conformity with both programmes. But the crux of the package is the public sector reform and there we're in limbo," said one Western diplomat who deals with the economic reforms.

Western states have rewarded Egypt for its efforts so far by writing off debts worth \$4 billion. They will write off another \$5 billion in stages as reforms proceed.

Economists say the government has adopted a top-down approach to the reforms.

The government has pushed through fiscal and monetary reforms, such as freeing interest and exchange rates, ahead of time but it has allowed more painful and politically sensitive reforms, such as privatising state firms, to lag behind.

Parliament is due to discuss laws to abolish rent controls on agricultural land and revive Egypt's capital markets this week after the government delayed an earlier debate and referred the laws to President Hosni Mubarak.

Usually, the government has sought all-party approval for the law to lift rent controls, which could mean hundreds of thousands of small farmers can no longer afford to rent the land they have cultivated for decades.

"Now that they've cleaned the slate (with debt forgiveness),

there is a unique opportunity," said the diplomat. "You can't have structural adjustment without pain... if you go slow the pain is drawn out."

Both laws were originally due early in 1992.

The World Bank revised its economic forecasts to predict growth instead of decline after Egypt recovered quicker than expected from the Gulf war and showed strong monetary indicators.

But economists say another reason growth will be higher than first thought last year is that there has been less real reform. Production in Egypt's huge, lumbering state sector has not declined as expected since the sector has not been restructured.

"I'd like to see a clear directive to divest... there's not a single reference in the public sector law to privatisation, the mandate is not clear," said Said Nagay, a professor of economics and former senior official at the World Bank.

U.K. law to stop cheque fraud comes into effect

LONDON (R) — A law to help stop cheque fraud came into effect in Britain Tuesday.

The cheque act guarantees that when account holders write "account payee" across the front of a cheque, only the person or organisation to whom the cheque is made out can deposit it, a

treasury statement said.

People whose cheques were stolen in the post and fraudulently endorsed lost \$2 million (\$3.7 million) last year, according to Derek Harper, manager of the British Banking Association's Fraud Intelligence Unit.

Cheque fraud was relatively

easy in Britain before the new law, because any cheque as long as it was endorsed on the back could be cashed or paid into any account.

Banks often could not check the endorsed signature until it was too late.

Qatar to invest \$400m to expand ethylene plant

MANAMA (R) — Qatar Petrochemical Company Limited (QAPCO) said Tuesday it had plans to invest around \$400 million to expand its ethylene plant.

A company statement said the aim of the project was to raise the plant's production capacity to 470,000 tonnes a year from 300,000 tonnes at present.

QAPCO is a joint venture between Qatar General Petroleum Corp (QGPC), which holds an 80 per cent stake, the French firm Atochem S.A. and Italy's EniChem S.P.A., each with 10 per cent.

Last week QAPCO signed a \$2 million contract with the Amer-

ican firm ABB Lummus Crest Ltd and Technip of France for basic engineering and for a lump-sum turnkey proposal for the expansion.

The statement said the estimated cost of the expansion included designing and building OPEC-member Qatar is striving to diversify its sources of income before its oil wells run dry in the next century.

It is pinning its hopes on its vast North Field gas reservoir, which, with estimated reserves of up to 500 trillion cubic feet (14 trillion cubic metres), is the biggest single accumulation of gas in the world.

Airbus profit rises to \$267m

PARIS (R) — European aircraft consortium Airbus Industrie made a 1991 operating profit of \$267 million, up from about \$100 million in 1990, an Airbus spokesman has said.

The spokesman also said that the four-nation group has received orders for 17 aircraft worth about \$1.2 billion so far this year.

"Our expectation over the next few years is that we will continue to be profitable," the spokesman said. "Our income is delivered in cash, and deliveries continue to increase despite the current non-buying state of the market."

In January Airbus said it expected 1991 operating profit of between double and triple the 1990 results, which represented the first profit in the four-nation consortium's history.

Airbus also said then that it aimed to book 145 aircraft orders in 1992, up from 1991's 101 orders but far from 1990's 404.

Kazakhstan and Oman launch oil pipeline venture</

Armenia threatens to pull out of Rome talks

Azeris shell Karabakh corridor

YEREVAN (R) — Azeri forces were reported by Armenia Wednesday to have attacked a corridor to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh overnight, but elsewhere a major offensive appeared to be slowing down.

Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman Gagan Arutunyan said fighting continued through the night in the Mardakert district, in the north of Karabakh, while the situation around Askeran to the east remained tense.

"There were attempts by the Azeri side to seize the Lachin corridor, but they were not crowned with success. Last night they bombarded the corridor from the direction of Khatyady but by early this morning it was open and functioning normally again," Mr. Arutunyan said.

The Azeri Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, blamed the latest upsurge in fighting on what it claimed was an Armenian assault inside Azeri territory.

Armenian fighters opened up the road through Lachin last month, linking Karabakh populated by Armenians, with Armenia proper. Azerbaijan launched a counter-offensive last Friday.

Mr. Arutunyan said the Azeri side was sending in more forces, including tanks and armoured vehicles. "Things are not calming down," he added.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Armenia was calling up reservists under the age of 35 for three months' special military training.

Azerbaijan accused Armenian forces of mounting their own offensive, fuelled by shipments of men and arms through Lachin.

"In recent days the onslaught

of the Armenian team, told Reuters that his side might pull out of the negotiations if the session did not call for a ceasefire when it resumed Wednesday.

"We are in touch with our government to use air power and several types of heavy weapons," the Armenian mission in Stepanakert, capital of Karabakh, said the overnight fighting around Mardakert was fierce, with big losses on both sides.

"Our defence line is holding in Askeran," a spokesman at the mission said. Askeran is on the eastern route leading from the Azeri stronghold of Agdam to Stepanakert.

Both sides have alleged heavy loss of life and civilian casualties in the latest battles. At least 2,000 people are thought to have died in the former Soviet Union's worst ethnic conflict since 1988.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry and the Karabakh Committee said Tuesday the Azeris had moved into the north of Mardakert district from the Sharmir district to the north.

The official Azeri news agency said units had advanced toward Lachin, which Armenian troops seized last month after capturing the entire enclave.

Armenia said Tuesday it might pull out of peace talks on Nagorno-Karabakh if fighting with Azeri forces over the disputed enclave worsened or the Rome meeting failed to call for a ceasefire.

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Christian Der Stepanian, lead-

Sarajevo under heavy fire; ceasefire breached

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Serb gunners bombarded Sarajevo with tank and heavy-machine gun fire early Wednesday shattering their ceasefire with Bosnian militias.

Artillery shells thundered throughout the city centre at about 5 a.m. (0300 GMT). At least five buildings were set ablaze, said Rasim Borcak, a journalist for Bosnian TV.

Serb gunners also opened fire from tanks near the city's airport. Serb fighters have kept the airport closed for the past 2 1/2 months, preventing relief flights from bringing food to desperate residents.

A United Nations convoy with 60 airport monitors arrived at a military barracks outside Sarajevo Wednesday, said U.N. spokeswoman Shannon Boyd.

The monitors began working to reopen the airport.

At least three Sarajevo suburbs were also under attack Milorad Filipovic, an official of Bosnia's defence force, said on Sarajevo Radio.

The fighting shattered a ceasefire between Serbs and Bosnian militiamen that was supposed to take force early Monday.

The shelling abated at around 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT), and residents attacked ventured out to scrounge for food, but found little at the city market. Stalls offered dandelion and nettle leaves, with one vendor toting radishes.

Trash that has piled up in city streets during the 2 1/2-month siege of Sarajevo burned in some spots.

Zeljko Visaha, 32, a worker at the gas company, said he had little faith in the ceasefire.

"There have been ceasefire too many times here, and ceasefires have not worked," he said. "At the moment, there's obviously none."

As Mr. Visaha spoke, a loud explosion was heard in the background.

"A Slovenian journalist died overnight from shrapnel wounds suffered in a Serb artillery assault on Dobrinja that disrupted the ceasefire Tuesday, Sarajevo



Smoke rises from a mosque hit by Serbian bombardment during recent fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Radio said.

Bosnia's minority ethnic Serbs rebelled in March against a Muslim and Croat vote to secede from the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Federation and have since captured 65 per cent of the republic with Yugoslav army weapons.

Efforts to relieve the torment of civilians trapped in the vicious fighting, which has killed more than 5,800 people around Bosnia, focus on a U.N. initiative to reopen Sarajevo Airport approved in principle by the warring militaries.

In apparent dismay at infringements of the ceasefire, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali told the Security Council in New York he could not yet recommend despatching 1,000 peacekeeping troops to secure Sarajevo Airport.

This would be the final and decisive stage of preparations for the airlift, which would have to be approved by the Security Council with Dr. Ghali's endorsement.

Even with a solid ceasefire, U.N. negotiators may have to overcome a reported Serb refusal to retreat more than five kilometres (three miles) from the

COLUMN

Book on Diana becomes an instant bestseller

LONDON (AP) — Harrold wouldn't touch it. But elsewhere, a new royal book reporting the marriage of Prince Charles and Princess Diana is an instant bestseller when it went on sale. Royal watchers were divided over whether Diana, The True Story, was the understandable revenge of a beautiful young woman against a distant, indifferent husband, or an unfair attack on the heir to the throne. But while the couple smiled and waved with open carriages at the start of Ascot week, the top event of the horse-racing calendar, few commentators appeared to doubt the marriage is troubled. The fairy arrived at Ascot in a house-dress procession from nearby Windsor Castle, 25 miles (40 kilometres) west of London. Charles rode with his parents, the queen and Prince Philip, and a cousin, the Duke of Kent. Diana, who got the biggest cheer, followed with the queen mother, 91. Hatchlings, the giant book chain which sports four crowns on its shopping bags denoting that it is book seller to Queen Elizabeth II and members of her family, sold thousands of copies within hours of opening.

James Joyce's Ulysses comes to life in Sydney

SYDNEY (R) — Is it obscene to travel across the world to Australia, to dress in bowler hat, three-piece suit with pocket watch and read James Joyce's Ulysses in a cemetery, among strolling lingers, at midnight, and for nine straight hours? Dublin painter Gerald Davis is not quite sure. "When people ask me about the obscenity of Joyce, I quote Joyce: 'Look! I have written about life and life is obscene then my book is obscene,'" Mr. Davis has spent the week in Sydney masquerading as the book's hero, Dubliner Leopold Bloom, as a warm-up to a nine-hour reading of Ulysses on Bloomsday, Ulysses, regarded by some as obscene, and by many as possibly the finest prose in the English language, depicts in infinite detail the life of Bloom, on June 16, 1904.

London Zoo to close in September

LONDON (R) — London Zoo, the world's oldest, will close on Sept. 30 because of a fall in the number of visitors and financial problems, its owners said. The Zoological Society of London said in a statement that the zoo in Regent's Park had been unable to maintain a break-even budget and that closure was the only option. "We have not been achieving our visitor targets and it has not been possible to maintain the break-even budget on our own," Zoological Society President Sir John Chapple said. "Sadly the closure of London Zoo is now the only option facing us," he said. The zoo said it would take about six months to find homes for the animals.

1st superconducting ship starts trials

KOBE, Japan (R) — The world's first ship using superconducting magnetic thrusters inched across a harbour in western Japan, the first move in a technology that could one day revolutionise sea transport. In 20 to 30 years from now, such ships could travel at speeds up to 100 kph (60 mph) and without noise. Surrounded by heavy, propeller-driven ships of the kind that have sailed the oceans for the last 150 years, the Yamato 1 showed that, while it has the looks of a maritime thunderbolt, it does not yet have the speed. Propelled by the force of an electric current passing over a powerful magnetic field, it dived at about 3 knots (11 kph) as helicopters swarmed overhead filming the event. "We are just getting out of the cradle," said Seizo Motora, chairman of a subcommittee on hull development at the Ship and Ocean Foundation (SOF), which is carrying out the project. "There are still a lot of points we have to develop further," he told a news conference after the test run.

Miss Greece wins Miss Europe title

ATHENS (AP) — Marina Tsakalidou, a 21-year-old model from Greece, was crowned Miss Europe at a beauty pageant in Athens. Czechoslovakia's Pavla Faburgova, a 19-year-old model, was first runner-up, followed by Turkey's Banu Sagun, 19, a student. Contestants from 33 countries took part in the pageant held at Athens' Zappeion Mansion.

Weinberger charged in Iran-contra scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was indicted on five criminal charges stemming from the Iran-contra scandal that rocked Ronald Reagan's presidency.

Iran-contra independent special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh announced that a federal grand jury indicted Mr. Weinberger for obstructing congressional investigators, two counts of perjury and two counts of making false statements.

Mr. Weinberger is the first member of Mr. Reagan's cabinet and the highest-ranking official to be charged in Mr. Walsh's five-year investigation into the worst crisis of Mr. Reagan's 1981-89 presidency.

The new indictment represented a significant development for Mr. Walsh's long-running probe. It has been hampered by waning congressional support.

Japan premier stresses peaceful role of troops

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday that, despite a new law allowing Japanese troops to be sent abroad as U.N. peacekeepers, they would still not be allowed to take part in multinational forces such as that which fought the Gulf war.

"... The purpose of the multinational forces was clearly to wage war against (Iraq)," Kyodo News Agency quoted Miyazawa as telling a meeting of the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association.

"Regardless of how many United Nations resolutions exist, it is prohibited by our constitution to use military force overseas," it quoted him as saying.

Parliament Monday approved a controversial bill allowing soldiers to be sent overseas for the first time since World War II — but only as part of United Nations peacekeeping missions and only in non-combat roles.

Yeltsin raises questions and hope with reference to missing Americans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said American war prisoners may still be alive in former Soviet Union and joined with President George Bush in pursuing a full-scale effort to learn their fate.

"The truth will be revealed, finally," Mr. Bush said, adding that a team of investigators would be sent to Moscow immediately to look into possible leads on the fate of missing Americans.

He said that Mr. Yeltsin told him that the prisoners taken by the Soviet Union include those from the Vietnam era and from earlier wars.

And, while Mr. Bush said there was no evidence that any of these Americans are still alive, he praised the Russian leader for agreeing to dig into his country's archives and files to search for answers.

"The forthcoming comments by President Yeltsin is just one more sign of this improved new relationship" between the former cold war adversaries," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin made the comments in the Rose Garden as they announced they had reached agreement on new reductions in each side's nuclear arsenals.

Mr. Bush said that a joint U.S.-Russian Commission on POW-MIA Issues, in business for several months, would redouble its efforts — not only to learn the fate of American prisoners of war but also of former Soviet soldiers missing in theater in Afghanistan.

"President Yeltsin informed me, for the first time, that Russia may have information about the fate of some of our servicemen from Vietnam. And he said the Russian government is pursuing this information vigorously," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Yeltsin promised to open the archives of the KGB and the Central Committee of the Communist Party to help in the search and to "report to the American people" all the information that can be gleaned.

Mr. Bush earlier told reporters he was completely surprised by Mr. Yeltsin's revelations late last week that there might have been

some American prisoners in the Soviet Union after World War II.

Asked if the probe might raise false hopes among families of those missing in action, he said: "We've got to be careful of that."

"So we have no evidence of anyone's being alive, but I would simply say again this is the best way to get to the bottom of it," Mr. Bush said.

"This new approach by the president of Russia to go into these archives and to try to find missing records will be the best assurance that I could give the American people that the truth will be revealed finally," Mr. Bush said.

Earlier, during a picture-taking session in the Oval Office, the Russian leader was asked if there were any POWs still in what was formerly the Soviet Union.

"It's very possible," he answered.

Mr. Yeltsin said an investigating commission is working in Russia and "many things have been revealed" in an "examination of the archives of the KGB and the Central Committee of the Communist Party."

Kohl goes on offensive for Maastricht Treaty

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday brushed aside arguments from the growing ranks of Euro-critics, telling them he would present the Maastricht Treaty on European union for ratification without further negotiations.

Mr. Kohl told parliament the plan for a European union was not perfect but laid down clear guidelines for the stable currency and democratic Europe its critics doubt will emerge.

The treaty was a historic opportunity neither Europe nor Germany could afford to lose, he added.

At the same time, he took up the call of many treaty detractors in urging the European Community to devote more of its decision-making from its Brussels bureaucracy.

"The government will therefore submit the Maastricht treaty for ratifications to the parliament bodies without new negotiations," the chancellor declared.

"European unity, is, and will remain a cornerstone of Germany's success story. Europe has probably brought us more economic and political advantages than any other country."

Criticism of the Maastricht treaty, reflecting popular fears about the loss of the strong Deutschmark and the growth of "Brussels centralism," has mounted in normally pro-European Germany since Denmark rejected it in a referendum on June 2.

The opposition Social Democrats and the 16 federal states, two groups that can torpedo treaty ratification in parliament, have also pressed for a stronger federal system in Europe.

Meanwhile the French Senate, in a significant victory for pro-European campaigners, approved constitutional changes Wednesday to bring France into line with the Maastricht Treaty.

The upper house, where the conservative opposition has a majority, voted 192-117 to adopt the changes, clearing the way for a single European currency by 1999 and a common foreign, security and visa policy.

Pro-European centre-right senators voted with the Socialist government. Neo-Gaullists and Communists voted against the bill.

The vote in France, a founder member of the European Community, came on the eve of Thursday's referendum in Ireland

Carter predicts U.S. House to decide presidential race

BALTIMORE (Agencies) — Former President Jimmy Carter has said he expects the U.S. presidential race to end with the House of Representatives choosing between Ross Perot and Bill Clinton.

The three-way November election with President George Bush, Mr. Perot and Mr. Clinton will result in no one getting a majority of votes in the Electoral College.

Mr. Carter said during an appearance in Baltimore.

U.S. presidential races are decided by a vote of the "college" which is made up of state electors expected to vote for whichever candidate wins in their state. Each state has the same number of electors as it has members of Congress, making it possible to win the election by carrying a few large states.

If no one wins a majority of the electoral votes, the Democrat-controlled House decides among the top three finishers. The Senate picks a vice president from among the top two in the electoral vote.

"I would guess now that Perot is hurting George Bush much worse than he's hurting Bill Clinton so it very well may come down to the Congress choosing between Perot and Clinton as to who will be the next president," Mr. Carter said. Voters are desperate for fresh faces in Washington, backing a strong leader in the White House even if such a president would ignore Congress in order to get things done, pollsters reported Monday.

Mr. Perot's soaring popularity is proof of the growing interest in an outsider president but this is not the only evidence, pollsters at the Times Mirror Centre for the People and the Press said.

Their latest found 36 per cent of the electorate backed Mr. Perot for president to 31 per cent for Mr. Bush and 27 per cent for Mr. Clinton.

But a separate poll pitting Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton against Gulf war military commander Norman Schwarzkopf winning nearly as much of the vote as much of the vote as Perot without even trying.

The poll gave the retired general 29 per cent of the vote to 35 per cent for Mr. Bush and 27 per cent for Mr. Clinton.

Mexico to 'temporarily' continue cooperation with U.S.

MEXICO (AP) — Mexico has temporarily agreed to continue cooperating with the United States in the war against drugs while both countries negotiate new ground rules.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari's administration had suspended cooperation Monday night to protest a U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing suspects abducted abroad to be brought to the United States for trial.

Mexico immediately revoked permission for Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents to operate in this country, and announced that Mexican agents in the United States would stop their work. This, in effect, froze all cooperation.

But Mexico changed its posture Tuesday after the Bush administration assured it that Washington did not plan to implement the Supreme Court decision.

Washington also agreed to open talks on the issue with Mexican officials.

A Foreign Affairs Department statement said Mexico "temporarily" agreed to continue cooperating "in order not to allow this period of negotiations to interrupt the intensive programmes of cooperation in the fight against narcotics."

The Supreme Court's 6-3 decision in Washington and Mexico's response Monday cast a pall on relations between the two countries, which had reached an exceptionally warm level.

In Washington, Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday that he was confident cooperation with Mexico on fighting drugs would continue.

"Before this announcement by the U.S. Supreme Court, the relations between Mexico and the U.S. in the war on drugs had never been better," said Rep. Charles Rangel, chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. In a statement from Washington, he criticised the Supreme Court decision but urged Mexico to reconsider.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte met Tuesday afternoon with Mexico's Deputy Foreign Minister, Andres Rosenthal, and later said they had discussed the countries' 1978 extradition treaty.

Mr. Negroponte said he did not think the incident would affect

the proposed free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada or the war on drugs.

A Mexican official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mexico wanted the United States to make clear it will not use the new tool given it by the Supreme Court. The official said Mr. Negroponte brought proposals to continue cooperation in the drug war while taking Mexico's concerns into account.

By some accounts, more than half the cocaine and marijuana entering the United States is shipped through Mexico, much of it from South America.

Meanwhile Swiss, Canadian and Argentine officials expressed dismay Tuesday over a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman Juero Kistler said Tuesday that any such kidnappings in his country "would simply be unacceptable and illegal and would be prosecuted in that light."

"Imagine where it would lead if every country would do that. You would have anarchy," Mr. Kistler said.

"Any attempt by a foreign offi-

cial to abduct someone from Canadian territory is a criminal act. We had hoped that the U.S. Supreme Court would make it clear ... that it would also be contrary to American law," said Denis Lauberte, spokesman for Canada's External Affairs Ministry.

In Buenos Aires, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said that if any kidnapping "is actually carried out it will be a shocking and extremely serious step."

The state-owned Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram limited its front-page comment Tuesday to a single sentence: "This ruling is without precedent as it ignores agreements ... between nations on the extradition of criminal suspects."

Under Canada's extradition treaty with the United States, Canada may impose conditions such as insisting that the suspect not be executed if convicted. Canada has prosecuted private bounty hunters who pursued people wanted in the United States.

Two American bounty hunters who snatched businessman Sidney Jaffe from a Toronto street in 1981 to face charges in Florida were extradited to Canada and convicted of kidnapping in 1986.

Canadian police have charged five people, including two Chicago police officers, with abducting a woman in Winnipeg earlier this year. The police officers were not acting in their official capacity.

Switzerland's relations with Washington were strained in the 1980s over several cases in which U.S. authorities accused the Swiss being slow or obstructive in criminal investigations.

In one prominent case, Switzerland refused to extradite commodities trader Marc Rich to face charges of tax evasion, because that is not a crime in Switzerland. Rich continues to base his business in Switzerland.

The two countries subsequently negotiated a revised extradition treaty.

Italy reacted sharply when the United States attempted to grab the hijackers of the cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985. U.S. jets forced down an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers at a Sicilian Air Base, and Italian and U.S. soldiers had an armed standoff over who would take custody.